

## Why College is Important to Me

by Cassandra Cranston

“When you go to college,” a phrase seeping with connotative suggestions, like a poem with so many layers waiting to be delved into under the surface, speaks so much louder that “if you make it through high school.” An entire childhood of one positive phrase can create such heightening effects on your future self. A world of negative speeches may seem as an innocent candle flame, but as the days carry on and the words continue, it becomes an overpowering forest fire of deafening emotions that cut off opportunities into the fresh world of college.

A child growing up is severely vulnerable to the threatening world bullying them. One who continues to grow through elementary years, to junior high, and senior high is already strengthened in one’s own heart and mind. Though children seem to struggle through the aching years, they seem to crumble near the graduation of senior high – no, they seem to show their failure, for this is just how they seem to be raised from the very beginning.

There are different ways to raise an innocent child, for both ways greatly impact their future. My parents simply just put into words, “When you go to college,” already setting me up for a large amount of success. Although, my Mother had dropped out and my Father went later in life.

I never had an ideal childhood; my parents had divorced when I was only five years of age, and instantly I had moved away, losing my friends. Ever since then I’ve been what seems to be a lonely child, with still the words of, “When you go to college,” to help me imagine what I wanted to be. My Mother was soon on food stamps, something I never thought much of, only that I was able to eat every night. I never had thought it was something people had despised and were ashamed of.

Once I hit junior high, I had established friends again, and I’ve kept them since. I noticed something strange and peculiar about how they were raised though. They had similarities, divorced

parents, one had also gotten food stamps at one point in time, but their parents had never spoke to them the words, "When you go to college." Once my Mom remarried, I had conjoined with his children, all older than me, but never were the words, "When you go to college," ever spoken to them. Instead it was, "If you make it through high school."

I've always been astonished by the strange wording of such a simple phrase. My friends are unsure of college, my step-siblings all dropped out of high school, and it never was how they were raised, but what words were spoken to them as a child growing up. They had never been told, "When you go to college," such a positive and shining phrase that creates courage and faith. College is an opportunity some have never gotten the proper taste of. Not me!