

## Why College is Important to Me by Emily Parra

A Greek philosopher named Plato once said that “the source of all virtue is knowledge,” and, conversely, that “all wrong doing is done in ignorance.” A world of educated people would be a utopia; a universal understanding of right and wrong would surely eliminate all of life’s injustices and flaws. Unfortunately, this ultimate goal has not yet been reached, but we must continue to strive for it, and we do this through a college education. College creates dreamers and leaders who will change the world by fixing the problems that plague it. Knowledge makes people find the beauty and capabilities within themselves, kindling a desire to contribute to the improvement of humankind. Institutions of higher education equip students with the tools they need to succeed in life.

Many young people go through life aimlessly, but the majority of them discover their life’s purpose once they go to college. I am enrolled in a dual enrollment program in which I go to school on a college campus full-time, which gives me a unique perspective on the impacts of college. I had no idea what type of career I wanted to pursue before entering this program, but after a single semester of college courses, I was able to get a better sense of what I am interested in, and I now have a clearer vision of who I want to be in the future. I am also gradually discovering what I am not interested in so that I can avoid making the wrong decision with my life and ending up with an occupation that I do not enjoy. Taking my first biology and chemistry courses solidified my aspirations of becoming a doctor, a notion I was previously unsure of. Being exposed to career fields I had only ever heard of previously has allowed me to

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seriously consider the occupation I want to pursue, thus making me realize my dreams and giving me the confidence to chase them.

In such a diverse setting as a college campus where virtually all ethnicities can be found, one can become familiar with the plethora of differences among society and come to appreciate them. I am voracious in my quest for knowledge, wisdom, and the truth. I am learning about this world's many religions, traditions, and cultures in my humanities class. It is teaching me to be a more accepting and open-minded person. College allows me to meet a variety of people; building social skills and a tolerance for even the most distasteful personalities is an attribute that is indispensable in every job and in life. Meeting people with opinions different from your own prompts you to consider arguments that you never had before, thus expanding your perspective of the world. Thus far, college has been invaluable to me in that it has shown me that this world offers limitless opportunities, and I do not need to take from others to achieve my goals, broadened my views, and given me the confidence to strive for excellence.

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