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### Why College is Important to Me

Everyone has a dream about what they want to achieve in the future, whether that be a career in medicine, acting, law, or any one of the vast options offered to those who want them. Often, these dreams require a college education to be made into a reality. Despite the expenses of college, the education provided by college is far more valuable than anything else money can buy, as it is an investment in the future and personal growth.

College can help you gain much-needed knowledge and experience to help you achieve your goals. The Greek philosopher Plutarch describes the human mind as “a fire to be kindled, not a vessel to be filled.” A student's thirst for knowledge can be quenched with a college education in the field that they are interested in, as college gives you a degree of freedom to choose your path. Choosing your path and learning all you can about it while in college is exactly what will provide the knowledge and experience to go about making your dreams a reality.

College can also give you more than just the basic requirements for employment, it can build you intellectually and emotionally. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., college “[teaches] one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” The true value of education lies in the well-roundedness of the graduate. A college education is more than just a diploma. A student in college will grow both as a person and as an intellectual, putting them in the perfect position to achieve their goals.

The safe space provided by a college education is vital to achieving any goal. According to Oscar Wilde, “experience is simply the name we give to our mistakes.” No matter your level of education or expertise, you may never reach your full potential without learning from mistakes, and college is the perfect place to do that, as it is a safe environment where one can make mistakes and learn from them without fear of serious repercussions. Knowing that the mistakes have already been made and corrected, one can step into the workplace with confidence, knowing that they have the knowledge and experience they need.

A student's life can be seen as a continuous timeline, as learning never stops. After completing high school, college is the clear next step, as it is the perfect place to make a significant advance towards your goals, whatever they may be. Stopping at high school may work for some, but largely it is not the ideal decision, as you will gain valuable experiences and knowledge to build you into the job candidate your interviewer is looking for, as well as building you into a well-rounded, educated adult who is able to responsibly handle the twists, turns, ups, and downs of life.

For me personally, achieving my goal is near impossible without going to college. My dream is to become an astrophysicist, and simply put, just a high school diploma will not get me there. The narrow and specific curriculum of a major gives you much more than just a few high school classes can provide. Astrophysics is a career which requires both the knowledge and the character of a person with a degree.

In conclusion, college is important to me because it will shape me into what I am meant to be. The building of character through confidence, discipline, and time management, as well as the intellectual development through critical thinking, problem solving, and many more given by

a college education is the difference between achieving your full potential or leaving your life at a standstill. For me, college is my path to success.