

## Why College is Important to Me

By Rojina Adhikari

My bus arrives at 6:30 AM every morning, Monday to Friday. It does not arrive at school until 7:15 AM. From 6:30 to 7:15, I have exactly 45 uninterrupted minutes to only listen to music - nothing else, just me and my music.

Mirrorball by Taylor Swift comes on and for probably the millionth time in my life, I am immediately transported to another world.

*When no one is around, my dear*

*You'll find me on my tallest tiptoes*

*Spinning in my highest heels, love*

*Shining just for you*

It's these lines in the song that move me the most, that make me really *think* about life. As a kid, I was always excited to "grow up," to become a grown-up and do grown-up things like driving, shopping, cooking, etc. The idea of becoming an adult had always fascinated me, and I looked forward to January 23rd every year because it meant I was one year closer to the "big eighteen."

Now, as a fourteen-year-old, I want time to slow down. The concept of growing up is less fascinating because I can actually feel it happening. Looking back at pictures from a year or two ago and looking at myself in the mirror at the present time, I can see the changes. My face looks more mature, and I've lost my childish features. And it's not just on the outside either. Every year, my interests, beliefs, goals, and aspirations are different, and I can see that I am changing little by little every day. Although change is natural and part of life, it is happening so fast, and sometimes, I wish I could be a kid forever.

College, in essence, is important to me because it is where I will learn to be an adult. I will no longer be living under my parent's roof. I will have to cook breakfast by myself because my mom will not be there to do it. I will have to do my own laundry, buy my own groceries, clean my own home, etc. I will have to handle the responsibilities that come with adult life. And this seems daunting now, but I think college will help me adjust. New experiences, opportunities, and challenges will also be a part of my life at college, and I am excited to see how I handle everything life has to offer me. A college education will give me the chance to use my love for economics and business to explore the world and discover how I can make a difference in the lives of others. At college, I can be the one making a good change in the world.

Most importantly, I want to make my younger self proud of me. I want young Rojina to see that she did it, that she is finally a grown-up doing grown-up things, and that she is happy too. Back on the bus, I listen to the lines "you'll find me on my tallest tiptoes...shining just for you," and I know that at college, I can rise to my full potential and make my younger self proud of how far she has come and how far she can still go. It's because of this that I look forward to the start of my college journey and like my younger self, I cannot wait to become an adult.