

Why College is Important to Me

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In 8th grade, we had a unit in which each teacher showed us a different aspect of having a career. Our English teacher prepared us for job interviews and writing resumes, our social studies teacher had us research colleges, our math teacher had us choose a career and live a pretend life buying groceries, etc. During that career experience, I had chosen to have a career as an author. I was a creative writer and was good at editing; my friends even called me “Grammarly”. It was a fun experience, and it led me to face the question that had been bothering me - what did I really want to do with my life? As my tenacious mind strove to find the answer, I did not realize how much that summer would change my plans. College used to be important because it was going to help me become a famous author, but one comment suddenly made college much more important.

During that summer, I signed up for a summer camp at the University of Mary in North Dakota with some good friends. When we arrived, we went and found the dorm rooms that we would be sleeping in, realizing that we would bunk with a stranger. I met my roommate that night, and she was just as excited and peppy as me. We stayed up until 3 a.m. some nights talking about everything from our favorite movies to terrible experiences in our childhood. She had endured some truly horrible experiences when she was younger and was still struggling with them. My heart reached out to the girl I had only known for a couple of days and I offered advice, asked questions, or just listened, letting her vent. One day she made a comment that changed my life, “You would be a good counselor.” That idea shocked me. I had never thought about being a counselor, but the more I thought about it, the more I liked it, a lot.

The camp ended, but what she said still remained in my thoughts. After much research, I became interested in teen counseling. I am determined that if I can help kids from an early age cope with their brokenness and confront painful experiences, the world will be a better place in the future. My dreams do not contain a world-wide cure, but I plan on helping someone one step at a time. Then each person will help someone else, transmitting healing to others and gradually transforming our society. College will give me the training to help people, and I am so excited for that. It has become a place for me to grow and develop into a caring and compassionate person. College used to be the place where I would get the English diploma to make me a famous author, but suddenly it became a stepping stone towards a bigger goal, not becoming famous, but helping people find the path to true joy.