

Why College Is Important to Me

I like to think of life this way: making the little girl I used to be proud of the woman I am today. So, it's for her — this little girl — that I proudly say I will be attending Harvard. What makes me excited about Harvard is not a ranking or meager percentage. It's about academic excellence and strong characters that are celebrated; it's the service-oriented mindset that Harvard embodies through all aspects of the school; and it's the support that empowers students to become change-makers of the world. In fact, these beliefs are inspiringly ingrained on the campus. For example, the inscription of the Dexter Gate reads "Enter To Grow in Wisdom" on one side and "Depart To Serve better Thy Country and Mankind" on the other side.

There is no doubt that education is the most powerful weapon and the most liberating act. College is important to me because it's my next chapter of education, and my next great leap to expand my arsenal. As the gate says, it is a place for me to translate what I learn in the classroom into wisdom applicable anywhere in the real world. At Harvard, I plan on concentrating in a field of quantitative social sciences. I also plan to join the *Crimson* publication, Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra on the harp, and perhaps some new avocation I have yet to discover.

College is beyond lectures, classes, or thesis writing. It's the experience that encapsulates the pathway to adulthood. Especially with the diversity of the student body present at Harvard, to me, college is a time to learn not only in the classroom, but also from my peers — to learn about their experiences, identity, and beliefs. After all, we only walk this world in our shoes. In college, we get to borrow shoes to better understand walks and viewpoints we would have never lived by ourselves. Therefore, adding to the liberating act, an open mind and the cultivation of a kinder approach will serve the most diverse body of all: our world.

Most importantly, as the gate reads when one leaves, college will build me into a servant leader that little me aspires to be and the world needs. Harvard has a long-standing tradition of serving the society at large. This strongly goes hand-in-hand with my unwavering passion for service. In fact, I hope to work in healthcare administration to advocate for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. What we are finding out more and more is that science is but a percentage of our health determinant. Factors including gender, race, income, and much more, play critical roles. I want to lead the wave of change and service to ensure equitable access to all when it comes to the human right of healthcare. College will help me get there, and in turn help me help the world. College transforms knowledge into wisdom, students into change-makers, and little kids with big dreams into leaders who change the world.