

Why College Is Important to Me

The world may be my oyster, but oysters are pretty hard to open without a knife. In the metaphorical sense, college is my oyster shucker. There are many reasons college is a significant goal of mine. In the end though, it boils down to freedom. Freedom to learn and pursue my passions. Freedom to see and experience the world. Freedom to make the world experience me. It's much more than a simple piece of paper.

College is the key to unlocking a future of my own making. It will be the first time I get to choose what I spend my time studying and is a direct link to obtaining my dream job one day (don't ask me what that is yet, because I'm not quite sure myself). It's a safe space to take a look inward and discover who I am without the restraints of the expectations I've grown up with. A place where the paths are endless, and there's no one telling me which one I have to take.

College is where the future computer scientist befriends the next New York Times Bestselling author, where the would've-been doctor discovers they actually have a passion for teaching, and where the ones who feel outcast finally find their place. It's a place of discovery and acceptance. Change and independence.

To get a little more personal, my biggest grudge against life is its lack of time. I won't be able to accomplish everything I want even if I live until I'm one-hundred and twenty years old. Even with the best time management skills, there's no way I can pack becoming an accomplished author, wife, environmentalist, painter, entrepreneur, professor, mother, and scientist into one lifetime. Not to mention finding the time and funds to explore every crook and cranny of the world. My only solution to this ever-growing issue is to narrow down my options. As sad as that reality is, college provides the perfect opportunity to do so. The ability to explore different majors will allow me to determine what career will be most fulfilling. Different clubs and

organizations will give me the tools to cultivate new hobbies and cherish old ones. If I'm really lucky, college might even be my gateway to what I hope is a life-long journey of world travel. So, unless superstition proves correct and I one day turn into a vampire, college is where I will lay the foundation for everything that comes after in the blip of time I'm granted on this planet.

With so much riding on this approaching change in my life, it shouldn't be hard to see why college is important to me. It's a pivotal time that could send me flying in a thousand different directions or land me in the bottom of a debt-shaped hole. It all depends on what I do with the opportunities that present themselves and how hard I'm willing to work. I guess it's a good thing that hard work has yet to scare me off.