

# Why College is Important to Me

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“School is NOT for learning... It’s for developing your brain”. These 10 words crumbled my previous misperceptions concerning the value and purpose of education. Words are powerful, especially when they perfectly encapsulate such profound truth without saying too little or too much. These are the precious moments when someone says just the right words. That someone shares a mere thought that seeps into your neurons and keeps you pondering at night. I clearly remember these wise words of the new acquaintance who I had been conversing with about college.

It’s a peculiar statement. One could even say that it’s contradictory, even inflammatory, because schools are set in place to provide a base education. But what about the classes one takes in which all the information learned evaporates from their brain once the year is over, such as Calculus equations or Chemistry compounds? Many students don’t see the value of taking a class that isn’t crucial for the career path they have chosen. However, school isn’t just about remembering all the minuscule details of our core classes. The purpose of school is to develop our brains; we are essentially learning how to learn. This shift in my mindset drastically changed my attitude towards challenging courses and the miscellaneous assignments of my junior year. Instead of complaining about the content of my PreCalculus, I approached this class with the idea that I was developing my problem-solving and critical thinking skills. As for all the assignments that appeared to be busywork, I was able to remind myself that I was enhancing my ability to be consistent and exhibit discipline. In the late winter of 2023, I discovered the hidden gems of education, and from then on I surprisingly found more joy in studying.

From the time we have elementary school graduation in our cross-hairs, we are introduced to the idea of attending college. Although a degree isn't a prerequisite to get a job or find success, I want to attend college because I wish to advance the growth of my brain. The human brain doesn't fully mature until about 25 years old, so why would I end my progress at 18? I have found the spark that lit my burning passion for learning and can prevail wherever I go because I actively choose to give my best effort in all that I do. There is still much to discover about the world around me, and I am not content with my current state of knowledge. I don't believe that I will ever reach a peak of education because there are always ways to level up. I can be proud of the efforts I've dedicated to schooling, but it's humbling to know that I will never be omniscient in any subject. Learning is a journey, not a destination. Although I do not yet know where I will go to college, or what my course of study will be, I know that I'll be training my mind for success in any future endeavor.