

## Why I Want to Go to College By Madison Johnson, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

As a kid, I saw college as a place where a lot of drama happens, and students lounge around on the grass playing games. I soon realized that is not the case. College is much more than a chance to be independent, it is an opportunity to sharpen your mind and make a difference in the world. I want to go to college because my dream has always been to help people in any way possible. Going to college will allow me to expand the range of possibilities for my education and allow me to give back to the community.

There are many benefits to having a college degree. One such benefit is increased access to job opportunities. College graduates have 57 percent more job opportunities than non-graduates. This will give me a leg up because I want to be a teacher and most teaching jobs require a college degree. Over 8.4 million jobs have gone to people with bachelor's degrees. Meanwhile, the number of jobs has only grown by 80,000 for high school graduates. Only six percent of graduates with bachelor's degrees live in poverty, but 22 percent of people without a college degree live in poverty. Getting a bachelor's degree will also put me on the path to obtaining my master's or a Ph.D. if I decide to pursue those options.

College will give me the chance to explore many education options. I would like to study music at a higher level in college, along with education and political sciences. I don't know exactly what I want to do with my life, but college will help me decide, and I will be able to find what I love and be more satisfied with my career as an adult. In college, I will put everything I have into studying and learning. I have been labeled a "gifted" student my whole life, and I would love more of a challenge. I would like to meet people with the same interests as me and be able to learn from brilliant professors. Going to college will give me the push I need to be able to do what makes me happy, while also learning and growing as a person.

Another reason I want to attend college is to make friends who share similar interests with me. This is a benefit because we will be able to learn from each other and share common experiences. College is so much about finding out who you are and what you want to do with your life, and having friends who like the same things I do will allow me to dive deeper into the depths of finding out who I am. Having people I am close with and who understand me will also be a benefit because they will provide academic motivation and social support, which are things you greatly need in college.

The last reason I want to go to college is that it will allow me to give back to the community. While in college, there will be many opportunities to help people, such as joining fundraising efforts to help different causes. Volunteering gives you the chance to take your mind off stressful schoolwork and focus on doing good for others. I would love to be part of something bigger, and something more meaningful than just a day spent cleaning a park. I want to change people's lives.

In conclusion, I want to go to college because I will be able to expand my knowledge, get a better and more meaningful job, make friends who have the same interests as me, and give back to the community. College has many benefits, and I believe that when I go, I will do big things. Things that will change my life and others' lives for the better.