



Write to Educate

Scholarship Contest Winner

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Essay Topic: Why is diversity important? How can you embrace and promote diversity in college?

Diversity demands to be acknowledged in the society that we live in today, the only way we will grow is through a rise in culture. Valuing diversity means to acknowledge the differences between humans and realize that everyone has different strengths that define us. While building relationships with people its always important to have an understanding of different cultures and embrace the differences that make us who we are. Without diversity innovation and creativity would crumble.

Personally diversity has always been very important to me, and I decided that my school needed a change. Last year in my creative leadership class a group of a couple students and myself put together an event to embrace our diversity at Dewitt. The name of the event was the "Empathy and Inclusion Workshop" we invited over some 7th and 8th graders from the Jr. High, along students from the high school, and teachers from both. The focus of this event was to embrace our diversities and create a safe place to just be yourself. We planned out many activities involving students and teachers that made them dive into conversations about how we can promote a psychologically safe learning environment, that embraces all of our differences.

This event was a huge success with over 100 people it generated many tough conversations that needed to be addressed. With such a great turn out we plan to host the event again this year. Our diversity day made many students realize that we must embrace the differences that we possess and be proud of who we are. It's important that we acknowledge ethnic, social, cultural, and gender-related diversity or our educational system will fall farther and farther behind. Having a day to celebrate diversity enhances our culture in the classroom and promotes more innovative, original, and visionary ideas.

Hosting this event at my high school has opened my eyes to how important diversity is in any collective. Bringing this mind set with me to college I believe will benefit me in many ways. Diversity and multiculturalism is vitally important to any college experience, because it prepares you for the real world. Being surrounded by a diverse group of student, teachers, and mentors exposes new viewpoints and ideas that create an environment of open-minded and global thinkers. Working in a diverse environment also promotes more educated opinions and judgements which is crucial to our ever changing educational system.

I think it's very important that we celebrate our differences and let the problem of diversity die with our generation. Especially now that we live in a culture filled with social media I believe it's important that we use this platform to connect with new people and learn about our differences. I know one strong quality that I will bring with me to college is that i'm not afraid to speak out when something isn't right. Discriminating against anyone is never okay, but standing by and watching it happen while doing nothing is just as powerful. Whenever I see something that isn't right I always speak up and fight for inclusion. It's always important to be part of the solution and strive to create a better environment to learn and educate in. Bringing this mind set to a college campus will eventually lead to a change nationwide, in return bringing more innovation and productivity than ever before.

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