Liberal Arts Paper

The definition of Liberal Arts is academic disciplines, such as languages, literature, history, philosophy, mathematics, and science, which provide information that provide cultural concern. By attending a Liberal Arts college I have learned to tolerate and respect many cultures while interacting with students from all over the world.

I have been fortunate to learn about different cultures and exchange ideas with students who have different cultural backgrounds. My views on world issues, government, and religion have become less biased, and I am more aware of the concerns of others. Most of my opinions on world events seem to conflict with many on campus, which makes the college atmosphere more exiting. For example, classroom discussions over controversial topics become not only an opportunity to defend my views; the discussions also provide many opinions, allowing everyone involved to have a deeper connection with the topic.

Since I have had the opportunity to participate in and out of class with different cultures, I am now more open too listening to another persons view and asking myself why I am firm on my own views. I have grown up a great amount and I now enjoy debating topics when previously I was narrow minded and had no desire to listen, or even respect another view.
Manchester College provided the chance to listen to Howard Zinn speak, I enjoyed listening to what he has been through, and how his experiences have changed his life. I did not agree with many things he said but I certainly have a great amount of respect for him. He is an accomplished person and has been successful in changing many lives, which demands respect. Previously I would have not have gone to see Howard Zinn because my own ignorance kept me from seeing a great opportunity, an opportunity to become enlightened on the topic of war. I was narrow minded and I knew Howard Zinn did not share my own views, but not only did I go to the speech, I felt grateful to here him in person. I believe this change of heart is due to my maturity as a result of attending a Liberal Arts college.

In the future when I have a classroom of my own, my Liberal Arts background will allow me to teach more effectively. There will be many different variables in a classroom. My classroom will be diverse and have students of different races and backgrounds. There will be students who have been raised by parents who have views that have come from their experiences, students whose potential can be hindered by factors that include parent’s education, social class, and beliefs. The background I now have provides me with avenues to communicate with these students.

With that said, I am now prepared to understand where a child is coming from, why they think a certain way, and what might be the best way to go about getting the most out of an individual student. There will be disputes in my classroom stemming from race, class, or religious beliefs. Since I have been in an environment with many diverse races, classes, and religions that were brought together by a Liberal Arts school, I am in a better situation to handle a dispute stemming from one of these factors. The
students I have interacted with have helped put myself in other student’s shoes. Although I will never fully understand where some students are coming from, I am undoubtedly better prepared to handle the situation.

Going to a Liberal Arts College has not changed where I stand on many views, but it has made me more tolerant and open to new ideas. I stand firm on what I believe while being supportive of what others believe. I now appreciate what others have to say and how they feel. Gaining a Liberal Arts education will make me a better person, a better professional, and an overall more respectful person. Now the impact I will have on student’s lives will be as positive as it possibly can.