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Liberal Arts Paper  
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Attending a liberal arts college, such as Manchester can have a great effect on a future teacher. Like many students, I personally did not understand what a “liberal arts education” was or stood for before I came to college, but throughout the years here at Manchester College, I have begun to understand. Throughout this paper, I will explain what a “liberal arts education” means to me, as well as the importance, significance, impact, influence and effect on my preparation for teaching. In most cases, Manchester College opens the door to all points of view, no matter what standpoint someone is taking.

Manchester is a college in the liberal arts tradition. The college defines the “liberal arts education” as, the purpose of a liberal arts curriculum is to help students fulfill their responsibilities as citizens and grow into cultured and versatile individuals. A liberal education is concerned with the development of moral, spiritual, and aesthetic values as well as analytical abilities. Intellectually, a liberal arts education encourages students to develop their curiosity, embrace uncertainty, and explore” (Manchester website). Knowing the purpose of a liberal arts education made me realize the importance of all the required general education classes.

Attending Manchester has influenced me to be open to new ideas, more rounded person, more accepting of diversity and to view issues from a global perspective. It has taught me to be open to new experiences and cultures in order to learn from different perspectives, and be more accepting of diversity including sexuality, culture, race and special education students. A teacher should always be open for new and improved ideas.

A liberal arts education has taught me to be flexible and have a global perspective especially in diverse situations. The Race, Ethnic, Gender Group Relations class was taught by a

multi-cultured professor. She told stories about the war from the other side of the spectrum, not the United States version of the war. She opened our eyes up to the global perspective about the war and many other racial topics. She taught us how to appreciate other cultures and not to discriminate against them because they are different than the average white American.

The professor opened up the idea of teaching multiple ways of life and other views around the world. Many teachers only teach to their immediate surroundings or comfort level but this should be changed to a global perspective. A teacher should challenge their views and comfort level in order to teach from a global perspective. Challenge your own beliefs and views before settling on one perspective of the story. A liberal arts education teaches that there are two sides to every story.

My liberal arts education has changed the way I think about myself, other people and the world around me. The cultural and critical connection classes offered at Manchester opened my eyes to a very diverse world. The courses have taught me to be respectful of other cultures and not offending them by using racial slang or comments. I have realized that there are many English as a second language schools even throughout the United States.

I did not realize how much of an impact a liberal arts education has had on how I view diversity until I attended the Celebrating Diversity workshop. This workshop opened my eyes to how other cultures and races are treated throughout the United States and surrounding countries. Many diverse students attended my workshop and they told stories about being made fun of because of their beliefs, looks or the clothes they were wearing. The stories made me realize the obstacles they have to go through and how hard it is for them to feel like they fit in.

My liberal arts education has dramatically changed my attitude but my beliefs have stayed the same. Although through my experiences and classes at Manchester College, I have

learned the importance of taking courses that will help me develop as a person and educator as well as the importance of understanding and accepting different cultures, religions, races, sexuality and various groups.

The biggest step towards becoming a positive and effective teacher is obtaining a well rounded liberal arts education. As a future teacher, it is important to broaden your life's view from a global perspective. An excellent teacher is open to new ideas, flexible, accepting of different people and listens to multiple points of view. A teacher should not limit the student's liberal arts education but broaden the student's acceptance of diversity and their knowledge about the world around them.

Manchester College offers a phenomenal liberal arts education. The diversity among the students has made my years here enjoyable and unforgettable. My liberal arts education has increased my understanding of others and subject areas outside of my major. Graduating with a liberal arts degree in education will have the biggest impact on my life especially as a future teacher. My liberal arts education has prepared me for the real world and teaching within the real world among diversity.

## Works Cited

Manchester College [www.manchester.edu](http://www.manchester.edu)