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### Influencing the World with a Liberal Arts Education

A liberal arts education offers students the chance to expand their education beyond the basic value. Students take classes outside of their academic major to enrich their college experience. A Manchester College liberal arts education is no exception. After receiving a liberal arts education, students are prepared to enter the world as well-rounded individuals immersed in various depths of knowledge. While at Manchester College, I have taken approximately fifteen liberal arts classes. These liberal arts courses have had a major impact on my position as a future educator because they have allowed me to delve into topics that I would not have otherwise explored.

Through the study of history in classes like *World History*, *World Literature*, *Cold War*, *Peace Studies*, *New Testament*, and *Political Ideologies* I have learned to appreciate the journey the world has taken from the beginning of time to the present. *Political Ideologies* class really taught me to embrace other ideological facets. Through this class I realized that not everyone was taught to believe the same ideas I was taught to believe when I grew up. I learned that even though people may not believe the same ideas, people could learn and respect one another's ideas. Not only did I learn to value other people's ideological views in that class, but I also learned how to take more pride in my own ideological views. This was also true in *Cold War* class. That class allowed me to see different aspects of the Cold War. Through studying journals, transcripts, and speeches I was able to see what an impact the Cold War made on the

way people live today. By studying classes like these in college, I will be able to share with the students in my classroom the profound influence events like the Cold War have on the history of our nation. I will be able to share with the students first hand accounts of material I have studied to help them see how the country they are living in today got to the place that it is, and also to help them see how what they are doing now will influence the future.

In various classes like *Experiencing the Arts*, *Microeconomics*, *Sociology*, *Philosophy*, and *A Cappella Choir*, I learned about a multitude of scholastic genres. When I took *Experiencing the Arts* class, I sat thinking to myself, “Who really uses this in real life?” But, less than three months after the class ended, I was using the information I had been taught in that class in a real life situation. My choir class was given the amazing opportunity to sing throughout Italy during spring break. During the nine days that we traveled through Italy, we visited many museums, and I was seeing the *Experiencing the Arts* class come alive again for me. I saw Michelangelo’s *David*, Da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa*, Ghiberti’s *Baptistry*, and Michelangelo’s *Pieta*. I never thought that I would use what I had learned in that class, but the class allowed me to see how important art is in every day life. I could use this experience in a variety of ways in my future classroom. One way that I will be able to use this experience is to share my Italian experience in a cross-cultural unit. I can share with my students various aspects about Italian culture including their arts, their language, their food, their practices, and their customs.

Through the study of science in classes like *Descriptive Astronomy*, *Chemistry in the Cathedral*, and *Chemical Science*, I have seen how things work together to create the world we live in. Science is such a hard concept for me to understand. It has never really “clicked” for me. Through the science classes I took at Manchester College though I was able to see the

importance of science in every day life. For example, I learned in *Chemistry in the Cathedral* class how to make stained glass. During this class we studied the chemical processes needed to create stain glass products. In *Chemical Science* class, I learned all kinds of different things about how science works in situations every day. My professor taught the class how science relates everything people come in contact with from “every day” concepts like eating potato chips to extraordinary concepts like building a nuclear bomb. Without these classes, I would not have been as knowledgeable or as excited about the concepts of science. Because of these science classes I will be able to share with the students in my classroom several different ways that science is applicable to their lives in every day situations and extraordinary situations.

The liberal arts education I gained from Manchester College will allow me to be a more developed educator. By using my liberal arts education I will be able to seek out new ways of educating students through my vast array of experiences. Most importantly, I will be able to use my experiences as a liberal arts student to broaden the lives of the students in my classroom by sharing with them the knowledge I encountered beyond the general education classroom.