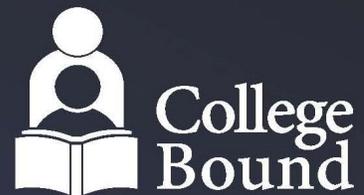
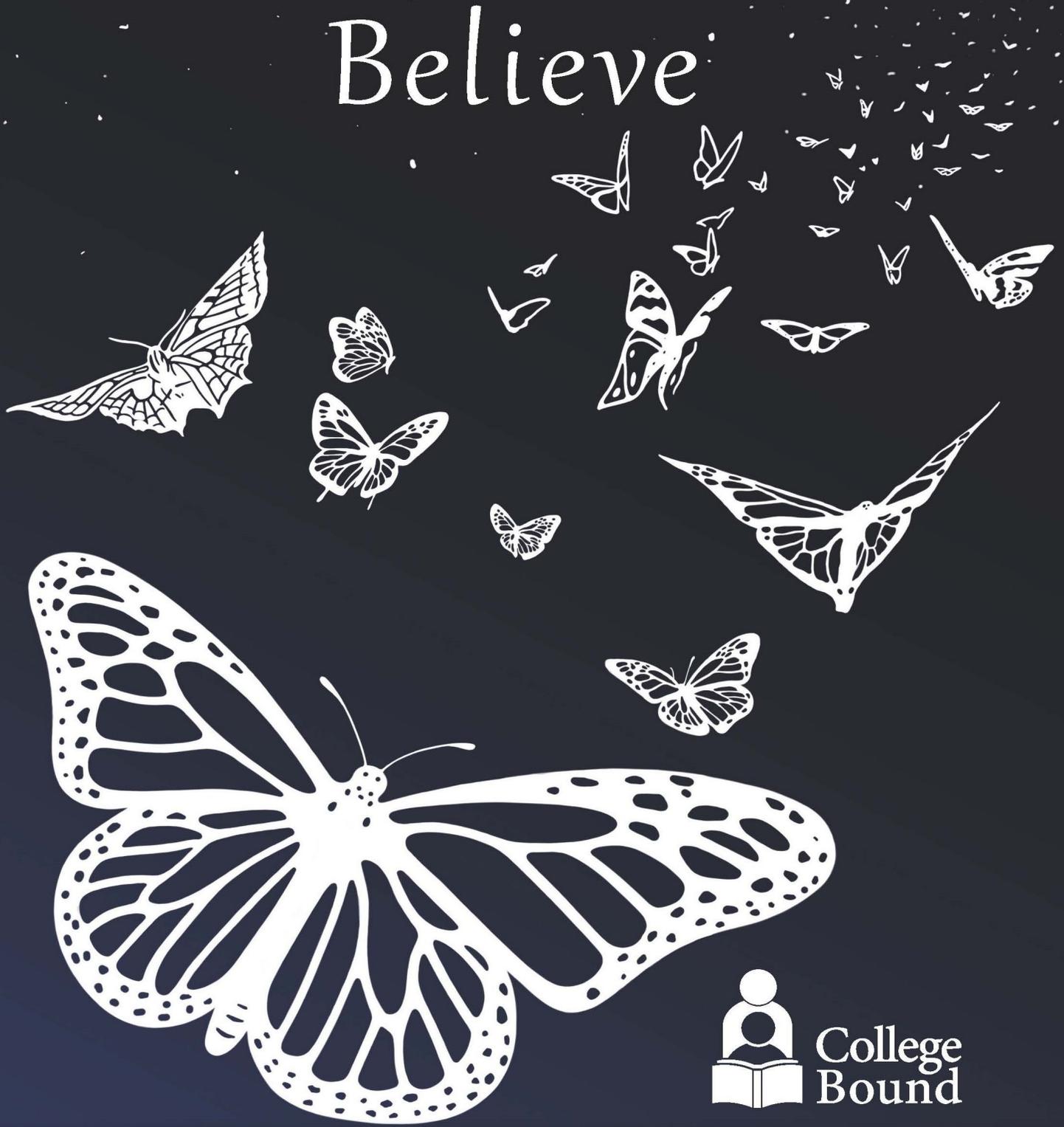


28th Annual End of the Year Celebration

Believe



Student Anthology



Believe



*“If you believe within your heart you'll know
That no one can change the path that you must go
Believe what you feel and know you're right, because
The time will come around when you say it's yours...”*
Lena Horne, The Wiz

In my youth, The Wiz loomed large as it remade an American classic, The Wizard of Oz, into something that was grander than life. It filled the screen with images and color, unlike anything that I had ever seen. From the costuming to dancers, I found it fascinating. I also found The Wiz to be incredibly inspiring, especially the music. When Lena Horne sang, If You Believe, I was mesmerized. Today, the song and words still resonate with me and mean more now than they did back then.

This idea of believing in what you feel and knowing that things will get better is the story that has been told throughout the ages. From Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt to enslaved Africans escaping on the Underground Railroad, believing has been essential to the human story of survival. In my personal life, there have been numerous obstacles that seemed insurmountable and believing that I could get through them has made all of the difference.

This year has given me ample reason to believe. In the wake of losing our College Bound senior Zaire last year to gun violence, I witnessed his twin Zion flourish in college, becoming a freshman senator and thriving at FAMU. His sister Yazmeen completed her degree in Biology at Temple University last week and will be heading to medical school. His friend Lauryn's unrelenting desire to create a mural to slain DC teens has found a wall. A scholarship to memorialize Zaire's amazing life is a reality. These serve as clear reasons that even in the darkest hour, we have to believe.

I continue to be amazed at our students, because they do believe, in spite of the insanity, through no doing of their own, they are subjected to daily. In this anthology, they share their views about themselves (and life) and in each story believing is embedded in their very DNA. From their career aspirations to creating a legacy, they are reflective and optimistic, even about the electoral college.

To say I love them for believing seems a bit trite and rather commonplace. They rekindle in me the feeling that I felt many years ago when I heard Lena crooned the lyrics – “Believe what you feel and know you're right, because the time will come around when you say it's yours”. I too hope that you will be spurred to believe in the possibilities that exist for their lives and evidenced by them continuing to show up and do their best in a world and society that is too often unbelievable.

Believe,
Kenneth

Where do you see yourself in twenty years? How do you think a college education/degree will help you achieve

Zojeilah K. '20

In twenty years, I see myself in South Africa working as a doctor with the organization Doctors Without Borders. I plan on serving the community as an obstetrician/gynecologist. I know I will be successful at achieving this goal because I don't give up on what I want. I hope that I will be able to travel the world while also helping people from less developed countries.



Schalom N. '20

In twenty years, I professionally see myself out in a forest and doing work in wildlife biology. Personally, I want to see myself be more outgoing and less reserved than I am now. A college education would help create this type of life I want to live because it teaches all the things that I need to know about wildlife biology so that I can get a job in that field. In college, you also have to put yourself out there and getting used to it in college would help me get used to it in the real world. I think I will be successful in achieving my goals.



DeAndre W. '20

In 20 years, I hope to have my bachelor's degree from Morehouse, and a legal studies degree from Georgetown. These degrees will help me to become a civil rights attorney in DC and later on start my own law firm. My personal goal is to own a 2019 Stingray Corvette, by being a civil rights attorney. I will be able to save up to buy one. I will be successful because I'm intelligent, well-spoken, nice, calm, determined and a hard-working man who will do everything he has to be successful.



Tylar M. '20

In 20 years, I will be a doctor/bioengineer. Also, I would love to be in a better and positive space than the DMV because I think I need to branch off from here and build somewhere else. I think having a college degree would give me a good foundation because it would show people that I have the necessary knowledge and they would give me opportunities.

Kobie F. '20

In 20 years, I see myself being a writer of some sort, possibly an editor in chief for my own magazine. A college education would help me get better as a writer, and just to further my learning. I think I will be successful at achieving my goals because it's something that I love and because writing is something I could do for the rest of my life and be happy with it.

Jada B. '20

Twenty years from now, I will be a graduate of Spelman or Drexel with a degree in psychology and child development. I will be working with troubled youth helping them to have a second chance at life. I will be stable and able to care for myself and possibly my own little family. My success in college is critical for me to live a comfortable life to be ready to go out into the world traveling to new places to see new things. I will be successful because I will always put my best foot forward and give my professors quality not quantity.

How has College Bound Impacted You?

Tylena P. '20

The College Bound program has taught me a lot of things so far, and I am excited to learn more. I have learned a lot about the importance of going through the college selection process as well as how much research is needed to choose the correct college. I found the Junior Retreat also to be useful because I learned things that I did not know that I really needed to think about or consider. I also learned that the college search process should begin earlier than senior year. The other events that go on throughout the year, such as Career Night, Taste of College Night, and the SAT Prep Class. These, as well as the many others, have really opened my eyes to the many different elements that go into the college process. The entire College Bound program is so useful to me because it guides me to what I need to do, and I really appreciate all the work that goes into the program. The more time that I really invest in the program, the more that I can get out of it. Over the years that I have been involved in the program, it has helped me to grow as a person and as a student. The hard work that the staff does and dedication that they have to the program and students' success is very evident and is very much appreciated because it allows me to know that I am not in this long process alone and have people behind me that support me in whichever direction that I want to take. College Bound is wonderful and deserves everything and more that it has and will be awarded.

Ayanna N. '20

In twenty years, I see myself having graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design and working as an interior, fashion or architectural designer for a well-known company. I see myself laying the foundation for my own business in which I build and repair homes for people and making them beautiful, especially for people who do not have a lot of income. I also see myself making affordable clothing for people so that they can always feel their best.



Evan K. '19

I always wanted to go to college, but College Bound gave me the motivation and resources to get there. A semester after joining College Bound my GPA rose tremendously (2.8-3.7) because I began to realize that I needed to get serious about college. Students across the city have experienced this same transformation, and I am grateful to College Bound for helping our goals be met.



Destinee D. '19

College Bound has allowed me to connect with not only successful adults/educators, but also young people just like me. Through College Bound and their many events and opportunities, I was able to network and expand my social skills. I was also granted with the ability to expand what I know about certain colleges and what to expect. Being in the mentoring program allowed me to have someone who was outside of my family, dedicate their time to me to focus on me and my future. As I through high school, that was and still is a very important part of my experience.

Sidnee S. '19

Since the 8th grade, I have participated in College Bound, a program dedicated to aiding high school students prepare for college success. Being an active participant in this program has not only helped me to learn the significance of going to and finishing college but also has given me opportunities to grow as a student and young adult. Under the mentorship of a college graduate, I have learned the power of being self-motivated and how this trait aids oneself in accomplishing their goals. Personally, I showcase my motivation through my work ethic and by my sense of commitment. Being in a program that fosters connections with educated professionals has shown me the importance of upholding one's commitment. Because I am self-motivated, I understand that it is not enough to do what one is told, but rather to want to improve oneself regardless of the task at hand. For instance, with any given homework assignment, I am not satisfied with just completing the minimum requirements. My motivation pushes me to stay up late completing assignments, stay after school to seek extra help, and always ask questions in class. By doing those things, I have built great relationships with my teachers and fellow students, which further facilitated my mastery in rigorous courses like AP World History, Honors Geometry, and IB Biology. In addition, College Bound has helped me to begin developing a network with working professionals who guide me with securing internships and becoming a better communicator. I love College Bound. I wish every student access to this program like I do.

Gabrielle G. '19

I started College Bound in my ninth-grade year, and it has really helped me in a lot of different ways. I have a better sense of connection and community thanks to this program. Through mentoring, I was able to make strong personal and beneficial connections that may help me advance myself in the future. The overall helpful and family environment helps new students into the program and allows them to feel comfortable to allow them to prepare for college and the years beyond.

Jaden S. '19

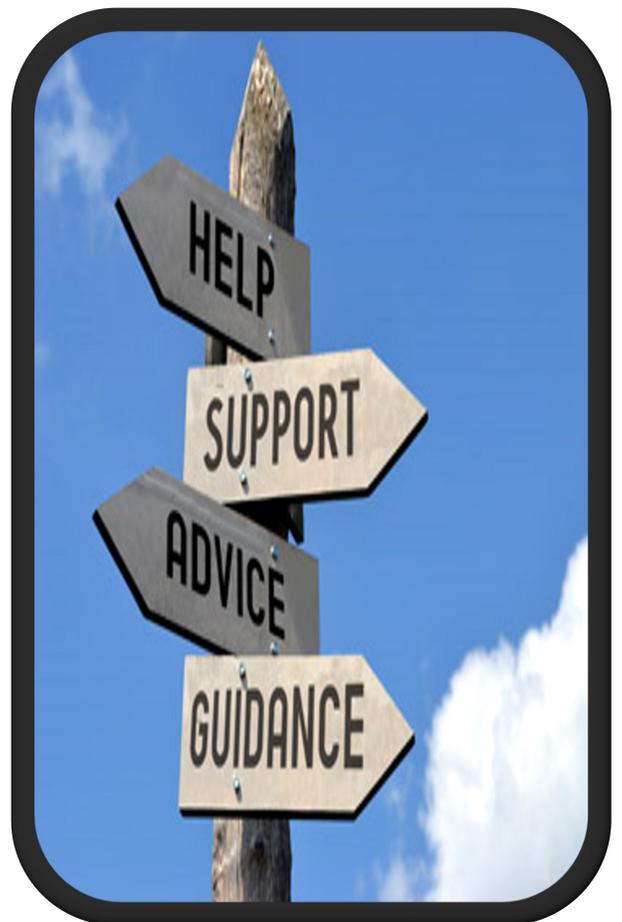
College Bound has pushed me to be an independent young man. They have taught me the importance of taking the initiative and staying productive. Fill out and look for scholarships on my own, be proactive in finding financial support for the school, show responsibility by attending Site and College Bound events. College Bound has also allowed me to become more confident in my public speaking and in the way that I carry myself. College Bound will forever have a place in my heart. They have pushed me to be a more focused and motivated young man, and I will never forget that #PNCSITE.

Raevyn T. '19

In this program, you meet a wide range of black kids either younger same age or older who all strive to go somewhere or be something. Everyone here has a mission whether it's being on time to the site, meeting someone with a different background as you, or listening to one of Mr. Ward's talks. It considered a safe place for learning, striving, preparation and culture. College Bound has impacted my life in many ways. At College Bound I found my support group, I built my self-esteem, I became more confident in my ability to succeed and excel in my steps to college, it helped me build my vision for a career path and goal. Lastly, it has built my character. #CollegeBoundIsLit

Trinity B. '19

College Bound has offered me an unlimited amount of resources and tools to ensure I am successful. I am grateful for one-on-one mentorship, college tours, career exploration, leadership positions, academic tutoring, and everlasting experiences that have sculpted me into the overachiever that I am today. The genuine support and encouragement from College Bound give hope that I will do amazing, as I enter college and graduate. As my senior year comes to an end, I am extremely proud of everything I have accomplished. My high school journey has not been a breeze, but all my hard work and dedication have paid off! In the fall of 2019, I will be attending my dream school, Temple University, as a sociology major. Entering college, I will continue to apply myself and put forth my best effort.



Caleb M. '19

College Bound has been beneficial for all of its students in many ways through all the opportunities it offers. Specifically, College Bound has helped with my public speaking, leadership abilities, and writing skills. Most importantly it has taught me to identify what needs to be done to push myself forward and be successful. Currently, I have used my public speaking abilities to be able to design my senior class shirts and been granted a portion of the profits. Being a site ambassador has also allowed me to grow as a leader. As a site ambassador, I was given the responsibility to serve as a liaison between students and the program coordinators, open weekly site meetings by reading announcements to participants, close site by asking for "good news" from each person, and represent College Bound at various events in the D.C. area. This experience has allowed me to bring my leadership skills to the classroom, allowing me to lead group discussions and group projects. During my time in College Bound, I have used various of the resources offered. In the tenth grade I struggled with geometry and English, so every week on Tuesday and Thursday I would attend stem in your hood to gain the necessary tutoring I needed to help me elevate my math skills. Furthermore, during the summer going into my senior year, I participated in the writing workshop to improve my writing skills. This allowed me to develop well-written essays for my personal statement and scholarships.

Bridney S. '19

There are so many things that have impacted my life by the College Bound experience. I was an introverted person to now a confident young woman. College Bound helps build confidence and character! One of the biggest impacts was becoming a Site Ambassador at Chavez, learning leadership skills and building camaraderie and trust amongst my peers. Engaging with the College Bound staff at monthly meetings was the turning point in my growth as a person, and it gave them what I hope was a more positive insight of me as an individual. The opportunity to travel to Ghana was life changing. The love, care, and support of the Ghanaians towards one another and foreigners were heartfelt. Before traveling to Ghana, I thought I was going to bring a breadth of knowledge to share, but I was wrong - they taught me so many things to apply in my own life.



Ishaya L. '19

College Bound helped me see that high school and college aren't just something I am supposed to do because my mom wants me to do it. College is an opportunity for me to better myself and set myself up for a brighter future. It has also taught me that no one can make me take the opportunity set in front of me. It is up to me to take every opportunity I can and take full advantage of them.

Kayla R. '19

Being a participant of College Bound, I have experienced amazing opportunities I would never have had a chance to without the program. I have matured, learned how to network, and gained many more necessary life skills. I will go off to College confident that I can handle any challenges that come my way, but if it gets to be too much, I know I can always call College Bound and they will be there ready to help. College Bound has had a complete transformation of my life. In just four years I have drastically developed due to my placement in the program. Every week I attend site I am motivated by my peers, mentors, and site coordinator to do better than that current week. I have taken various opportunities to attend programs like STEM in Your Hood, Medi-Tech Tuesday, college tours, and much more. Without College Bound, I truly believe I wouldn't have half of the achievements I do now. College Bound has taught me it's okay to fail, but it's what you do afterward that makes your story. I have applied this mindset to everything I do and will continue to use it in college and my career.



Mikayla S. '19

College Bound has impacted my life by navigating me through what to expect in the real world. College is a major turning point in an adolescent's life. However, with the help of College Bound, I know that I will be successful throughout my next four years. College Bound has shown me various career paths by hosting several Career Nights and Senior Seminars. Due to Career Night, I was able to figure out which branch of engineering I want to pursue. Senior Seminar has taught me how to successfully apply for financial aid and how to remain organized throughout my senior year. College Bound helped me grow into a well-rounded student. The many learned lessons have made me strive harder to reach my goals. I continue to reflect on my past experiences in the program, and I know that I'm prepared for the next phase of my educational journey. I have gained so much from the college-bound experience including the valuable time spent with my mentor. We have a great relationship that I know will continue to grow throughout the coming years. I appreciate all of her support and advice. My mentor also attends my personal activities which really means a lot to me. Thanks to College Bound, I've gained a life-long big sister that I admire and respect very much.

Steven A. '19

College Bound has helped me become more confident and responsible. My general nature is to be reserved, and I was encouraged to run to become the Site Ambassador, and I was elected. This role required that I emerge from my shell and engage more with the other students and the program staff. As a leader, I took myself seriously and modeled the behavior I wanted to see in the other students such as showing up on time, being prepared, paying attention when others are speaking, and participating fully in all activities (or notifying my mentor when College Bound conflicted with my wrestling schedule). Additionally, I was fortunate to travel to Ghana with the other Site Ambassadors. The journey to "the Motherland" was awe-inspiring. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to see the place where my ancestors were born.

**Dana P. '19**

College Bound was a wonderful experience. I loved the bond I created with my mentor and other students in the program. I highly recommend anyone who is capable of being involved to join, whether that be as a mentor or a student. College Bound has provided me with the much-needed support and guidance to be fully prepared for college and the real-world beyond receiving a formal education. Through College Bound and the assistance of my mentor, I've learned to love learning and look forward to all college has to offer.

Kamoni S. '19

College Bound is an amazing program that helps you get to and through college. The program hires great mentors who really want to invest your time on your success. College Bound has given me hope about my future. As a Banneker achiever, it is hard to get to and through school. At many points in my high school career, I wanted to give up. College Bound has gotten me back on track on my grades, my organization, and involvement in my school and the community around it.

Ciara C. '19

College Bound has shown me the importance of giving back to the community. They have inspired me to choose a career that will allow me to improve and implement policies that affect my community. With constant motivation from my mentor and College Bound staff, I'm a much better person and student. I have also become more proactive, hardworking, and a much better writer.

Lauryn R. '19

College Bound has impacted my life in more ways than one. From my ninth-grade year with SAT preparatory class to my senior year with the useful lists of scholarships that are sent out weekly, College Bound has prepared me to defy odds. The odds that black youth in D.C. may fall victim to are plentiful. Unless you have exposure to the possibilities of your future, those odds could successfully tempt you. College Bound helped me jump those hurdles through exposure to career paths, college campuses, workshops, and a strong mentor.

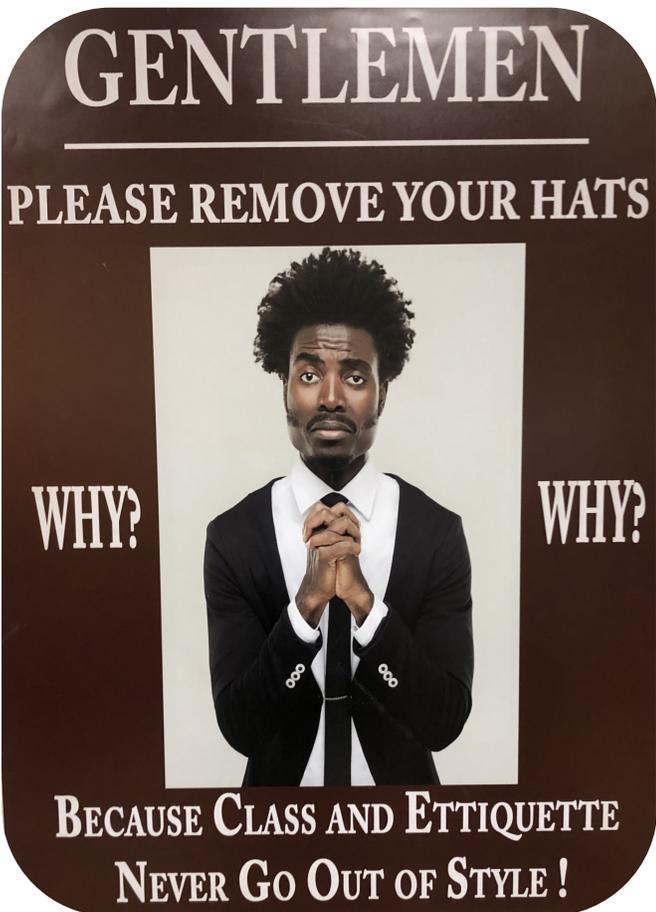
**Nadiyah W. '19**

College Bound has impacted my life in so many different ways. Before being given the privilege to join college bound, I always knew college was important and somewhere I needed to attend after high school, but I was never really thrilled about going. After joining College Bound, I was able to attend my very first college tour, which really opened my eyes into the excitement that being able to attend college really gives you. I started to be able to build my college list based on the schools I was able to visit because of the college tours. College Bound has also opened me up to career options when attending Career Night. This is one of the reasons I decided to pursue becoming a Forensic Pathologist. For a very long time, I wanted to become a lawyer but being able to learn more about other careers opened my eyes up to more options. The biggest way College Bound impacted my life was opening me up culturally and being able to go on my first international trip to Ghana. I was able to taste new food and open my eyes to how the world is outside of North America.

Malcolm T. '19

College Bound is the best resource for students wanting to attend college. It has been a life changing experience for me, through successful mentorships, seminars, and college preparedness training. Over the past years, my involvement in the College Bound program has provided me guidance in so many areas of my life and has motivated me, even more, to pursue a career in Computer Engineering. I enjoyed the various events, meeting with company executives and learning how they have succeeded to accomplish their goals. My mentors were independent voices, outside of my parents, that I could depend on for ideas and constructive feedback. They also provided me guidance on areas that I was unfamiliar with, such as attending interviews or what to look for in colleges. College Bound has taught me that success doesn't just involve doing well in school in terms of grades. You must interact and include yourself in various activities and your community. It has inspired me to keep working hard and to maintain a positive mindset. When I heard the news of Zaire's death, I felt so helpless. Hearing Mr. Ward talk about how we could turn this tragedy into a positive experience, I was skeptical. I realized however when speaking to Zion that through this tragedy he was given a platform to speak out (even though difficult at times) and bring deeper awareness to the issues of gun violence in our community. It didn't make the tragedy any easier, but we all had a choice on how we would respond to it and what message we wanted to leave as a result of gun violence. Because of College Bound, I now have valuable insights into the college experience and interview techniques. College Bound has helped me recognize my abilities, limitations and most importantly the importance of giving back has inspired me on my non-profit idea. I believe that the experience I earned with College Bound will continue to serve me well in all that I do.

Please explain what having a mentor means to you and what are some benefits from mentorship that you're thankful for?



Matthew A. '21

What mentoring means to me is guidance. A mentor takes you under their wing. The benefits of having a mentor include having someone that pushes me to do my work. Sometimes a mentor is a pain in the neck, but I have learned how to talk to all different kinds of people and how to write better as a result of having one.

Ray H. '20

Having a mentor is very helpful and stress-free. My mentor Daniel is very willing to help with anything as it relates to school. I am very appreciative for having a mentor and that my mentor is Daniel.

Nori C. '19

A mentor is anyone that can impart their wisdom on to you through their own personal experiences. Typically, this person is older than you, but I believe that you should have mentors that may range in age and background so that can both provide you with different kinds of guidance and advice to you succeed. In meeting my mentor, I received a lot of wisdom and personal advice that I plan to take with me on my journey.

Jordan J. '19

College Bound has helped me come out of my shell and talk to people and be a little more social. Because of College Bound, I went on college tours and learned what size college I want to attend and learning that information directed me to apply to the colleges I choice. The math lab and SAT workshops helped me a great deal as well. Both of these programs increased my abilities and test scores. Coming to site and having Ms. Joell and everyone with College Bound believe in me helped to believe more in myself. Having a mentor has impacted me the most. My mentor Kymeil has been very important to me. She encourages me, she pushes me to do more, and I know she always has my best interest in mind. She is always there when I have questions about anything. Because of College Bound, she came into my life, and I am very thankful for that.

Neiori W. '20

What having a mentor means to me is having someone to help me manage my future and what I want to do. It is also having someone to talk to about the things I did in school or to listen to what I am interested in and to guide me through tough times. The benefits of mentorship for me are to have someone help to manage my goals with me and set future goals for myself. I am thankful for my mentor and the knowledge she instills in me. My mentor affected me by helping me be a more open and goal-oriented person.



Jaron H. '20

When joining College Bound, I didn't know what to expect from the one-on-one mentoring aspect of the program. But having a mentor has taught me a lot about college, success, and most importantly about myself. My mentor has been guiding me through my years in high school and also providing me with more and more information on the college application process. My mentor has pushed me to get out of my comfort zone and additionally has made me more vocal and a well-rounded student. Mentorship is important because no one can go through life alone.

Lalah C. '21

Having a mentor means that I have someone who cares about my success and is willing to take the time to help me. Having a mentor is beneficial because your mentor can help you with your college application process and throughout high school. A mentor can also help with your organization or anything that you need an extra hand with.



Cana S. '20

Having a mentor is really nice, and I'm really thankful I have one. Having a mentor allows you to build a strong bond with someone you can go to and talk about things. Having a mentor keeps you motivated and not allow you to give up. Having a mentor is like your second parent, best friend, and teacher. I'm thankful I have one like Imani. Since I joined College Bound in 8th grade, I wasn't really bonding with my mentor. Every week it still felt like we were strangers. Then my second mentor was cool, but she stopped coming and did not contact anyone about her absence. I am glad God put me with the mentor I have now, we really bonded, and I know I can talk to her about any and everything literally!

Reggie G. '21

Having a mentor means a lot. A mentor can teach you things that they did growing up. They can help you with schoolwork or scholarships. Also, they can prepare you for college and the future. They can prepare you not to make the mistakes they did or not to make mistakes at all. I am thankful for helping me with my writing and speaking. Also, I am thankful for preparing me for the scholarship essays.

Makhi D. '22

Having a mentor means a lot to me because I have an opportunity to learn from him. I can learn how to deal with certain problems, such as dealing with a teacher I don't like. He can give me advice about applying to colleges. Some things that I am thankful for having a mentor are that he teaches me about how to write correctly and helps me with my basketball game, giving me advice on what I can do better on the court. Ultimately, I am most thankful for having a mentor, because most young people, if they do not have a father or mother figure in their life, tend to act up in school. So, I am thankful to have found College Bound. I needed a mentor because my father is not in my life. Having a mentor means a lot to me because I have an opportunity to learn from him. I can learn how he deals with certain problems, such as dealing with a teacher that I don't like. He gives me advice about jobs I can look for in the future. I am also thankful for having a mentor since he teaches me about my grammar in writing.



Jane E. '20

Having a mentor is a great experience because I have an extra person in my life to guide me through various struggles or help with questions that I might have about things I do not know. I learn a lot from my mentor. Before I joined

college bound, I did not have a mentor, so I did not realize the significance of a mentor, but now I am glad that I do. My mentor and I have the same career interests. She teaches me about a field that I want to go into, but don't know much about. Overall, I am grateful for my mentor, and I greatly appreciate all the help she gives me and all the things she does for me.

Sydney K. '20

What having a mentor means to me is having someone who has had experiences in life that I've yet to have, for example, going to college, graduating from college, living on their own, and providing for themselves in ways they didn't have to when they were a child. Having a mentor is being able to talk to a person about anything going on in your life, whether it is academics, social, relationships or anything that is bothering you. They are also there to support you and always have your back. The benefits of having my current mentor, Chanel, is that I know that I can always count on her to help me when I'm dealing with something educational or personally. I enjoy having her around during site and when we meet up for our monthly outings. She always keeps me on track with my schoolwork, work assignments, signing up for College Bound events and programs, attending more events, and my busy schedule. She also helps me with picking colleges by helping me find the right fit for me based on what I want to study, where I want to go, and my financial situation. Overall, I'd say I am very thankful for my amazing mentor, Chanel.

Aniya D. '21

A benefit of having a mentor is having someone that is always there when you need help. My last mentor helped me pass my Spanish midterm and almost all my finals. When I need someone to talk to, she is there, like when I am struggling in certain classes. My mentor also reminded me things that I would forget and always checks up on me still to this day.

**Iftakhar A. '20**

Mentoring allows for a way for the mentor to give back to the community as well as allowing them to help students. I am one. Personally, having seen numerous mentoring programs, I would say that mentoring is a gateway to other perspectives. I've shown my pieces of work for my internship to my mentor, and we were able to construct a practice interview from that. I have been a mentor as well. It really is a great experience to help others. For my case, I was able to give back to my middle school enrichment program, Higher Achievement, when I applied to mentor there over the summer.

Derrick L. '21

Having someone who has been through the process of getting into college and going to college really makes the process easier. But it's more than just helping get into college. It's about helping with problems you are going through academically and socially. Mentors set you on the right path for greatness. You just have to listen. Your mentor should help connect you to what you want in regard to school choice, scholarship applications, and materials.

What are some of your thoughts about the colleges we have visited thus far during the spring college tour?



RayLynn H. '20

Having a mentor means that you'll always have that outside of home and family to support your hopes and dreams, while simultaneously getting you used to setting goals, pushing towards them, and in the end achieving them. Mentors grow bonds with you to gain an interpersonal connection, to learn more about you, your character, skills, and morals. I'm thankful for this mentorship that I have received over this past couple of years, because I have had the opportunity to work with two amazing mentors who saw the potential, talent, knowledge, and the success within me to be college and career ready. I am thankful that these two women sacrificed their time to be here in College Bound right after they get off work. I'm thankful that even if either one of us is not in College Bound, we can always still keep in touch and I can still get that support and motivation when I need it.

Cierra J. '22

So, my experience at Georgia Tech was ok. I loved the scenery at Georgia Tech. I feel that the tour guide tried her best to relate to the group by asking them what majors they were interested in. Then she proceeded to take us to those places where those majors were practiced. Now Clark Atlanta University for me was a lot better to me than Georgia Tech. Or at least the tour guide at Clark Atlanta University was better than Georgia Tech because it didn't feel like I was on a college tour it felt like it was just another day in college. Our tour guide let us sit inside a sociology class which was great. We were able to see how a real college class environment would be like. Also, our tour guide took us to the dorms and we had an opportunity to get some information on that and go see the communal bathrooms. My experience at Clark Atlanta University was amazing and I wouldn't trade it for anything.



Lauren S. '21

I got to see one of my potential colleges today, Georgia Tech. I really loved the scenery, and the size of the campus was the right size for me. I also appreciated the opportunity to branch off from the group and see the aerospace engineering building. I was fortunate enough to run into Zach, a junior in my potential major. He gave me a lot of information about the classes I would take freshman year and the many resources Georgia Tech has to offer. I liked it when he told me he was able to get an internship during his freshman year. Zach told me that although it is a big school with lots of students, the professors care. I will be applying to Georgia Tech in my senior year. Though it is a PWI, I think it will prepare me for the future.



MyAja R. '21

Today was by far the BEST day of the college tour. This is because I found the school of my dreams, the Savannah College of Art and Design. SCAD helped me to finally decide to pursue a career in the creative field. I absolutely loved the school, and I felt like every ounce of me belong at SCAD. I didn't want to leave. Thank you College Bound for helping me find the perfect school for me.

Ade O. '22

The things I liked about Fayetteville state university is that they prepare their students for success in a global economy through programs like Global Scholars, foreign language teaching assistants, and study abroad. What I don't like about Fayetteville State University is that their graduation rate is 35%, I don't like this because if you are a top-notch school in your state, you should have a higher percentage.

Camoni M. '21

I was fortunate to visit Florida A&M University and Valdosta State University today. I was so surprised with Valdosta's campus in terms of diversity and opportunities (especially because I was not familiar with the school). VSU felt very homey, and it is a school that I can definitely see myself attending. My first impression of FAMU was definitely excited with the wall of companies with alumni connections. This excited me because it would contribute to the guarantee of success in the business world a FAMU degree would provide me. I enjoyed learning about the business school and all the financial aid opportunities. I plan on applying to both schools we toured today and to take the advice from the financial aid office at FAMU. I will also be applying to lots of scholarships!

Khaliq M. '21

Although I am not currently interested in North Carolina Central University School of Law, I felt that the introduction given to us by one of its deans was very welcoming. It showed me a beautiful representation of what college can produce, provided that the education offered is taken seriously and used properly. I really like the sense of community I felt at NCCU. In addition to, or because of, all the clubs, fraternities, and sororities, there seems to be a strong bond between students. Everyone seems to know each other or just really like and respect each other as fellow NCCU students which creates a great community bond. I liked the people and school spirit at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the graduation percentage and the financial aid provided. I dislike how big the school is although they do offer opportunities, I don't think that I could focus well at that big of a school.



Breanna L. '20

I really enjoyed the Clark Atlanta University tour. The close-knit campus community feels like a family and the school seemed to have a welcoming environment. Students seem to have many opportunities to grow. The teachers seem to see you as an individual and not a number and want to help you as much as possible in the classroom and out of it as well. I also like CAU because it has a good mass media program that I am really interested in.



Moselle S. '21

I enjoyed the panel at Georgia State University. They told us both good things and bad things about the school, mainly emphasizing the good. I like that the school has an urban campus in the middle of the city that students can easily get to from their dorms which are close by. I appreciated that the panel gave us advice about college, what to do and what to not do. The SCAD campus was so beautiful and unique. The art designs on each floor were original and weird but in a good way. I liked the vibe there. I could go there, but I do not have an interest in digital media or art design. Overall, I enjoyed the visits to these schools as well as Oglethorpe.

What academic goals have you accomplished this year? What are some goals you want to achieve next year, in the future?



Heavyn D. '21

Some academic goals that I've accomplished this year include maintaining good grades while trying to complete scholarships and summer program applications. My goals for next year are to continue to get 4.0s and above, get a job, start applying to colleges, getting accepted into them, preparing scholarship applications, and making my mom and my mentor happy. I will make sure I work hard to achieve these goals and focus on motivating myself to want better, get better, and to remember the sky's the limit and that I should do whatever it takes to receive better.

Gregory C. '22

My goals for this school year were to make the honor roll all four quarters and not to get kicked out of McKinley Tech. So far, I have made honor roll during the first, second, and third quarter. All I have to do now is to make the honor roll this quarter, and I will be straight. My goal for next year is to make a 3.5 or higher throughout the whole school year. I also want to get some scholarship money from opportunities that I have. I also want to get 25 or more of community service hours because at McKinley Tech to graduate you need 100 community service hours.

Alyson J. '20

This year, I have reached my goal of maintaining a 4.0 GPA every advisory, never missing any assignments, and getting a good SAT score. In the future, I want to continue to maintain a GPA of a 4.0 every advisory, increase my SAT score, and score a 4 or higher

Shana G. '20

This year, my academic accomplishment is something that I never foresaw happening based on my track record. I feel adequately prepared for the four AP Exams that I will be taking in two short weeks. Over the past two years, I have taken three AP tests and scored 2.5 on all of them. A three is a passing score, and I need at least one passing score to graduate. Of my four mock exams, I scored three 3's and one 4 (my teacher has told me that one of those 3s could be a 4). I want to receive all A's in all the AP and Capstone Courses that I am taking next year. If I achieve these goals and complete a senior project, I can graduate with high honors. I must work on my time management skills and make better decisions about what is important moving forward. To do this, I will need to utilize my calendar and

DiMya B. '21

Some academic goals that I've accomplished are successfully completing my pre-calculus class at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), making honor roll on multiple occasions and apply to scholarships. A few goals I have set for next year are to take at least two more classes at UDC or another college, make the honor roll for four consecutive terms, and apply for one scholarship a week. I will get a new calendar, a large one, and put it on my wall and maintain organiza-



Sanaiya J. '20

The academic goal that I have accomplished this year was making honor roll by staying on track with schoolwork, being organized/prepared, doing great on tests and homework, going to teachers when I need help and asking questions in class when confused. Next year, I plan to get at least a 4.0 or higher GPA, get all A's in each class, the lowest grade allowed will be a B. I also want to stay organized. I will make sure that I achieve my academic goals by staying organized, planning things out, for example, upcoming tests, homework, and projects. I will also study more and apply to and get into college.



Jaime G. '23

The academic goal that I achieved this year was gaining a better understanding of math. The goals that I will set for myself next year include doing my homework, turning my assignments in on time, and being on time to school. I will make sure to do my homework by placing all distractions to the side and reminding myself to do it. I will make sure I turn in my assignments by keeping my things organized and setting reminders. I will make sure that I am on time to school by getting prepared the night before, going to bed early, and waking up early.



Indira C. '20

An academic goal that I achieved this year was making the honor roll. I thought that I would never be able to make the honor roll this year because I heard that the 11th grade was your hardest year. I doubted myself, and thought I wouldn't be able to achieve it. Yet, I finally did it! I made the honor roll because of all the hard work that I put in. A goal I want to achieve next year is getting A's on my report card and actually making something of myself. I want people to know me as a great, hard-working person.

Cobi C. '21

As the school year comes to an end, some of the academic achievements I have accomplished include getting better at English and math. I grew so much since last year, in terms of my grades and work ethic. I push myself to do better than I did the previous year. I thought the difficulty of high school was exaggerated and I thought I could pass through high school doing little work. That all changed when I got there. I knew that I had to study and do all my work and not slack off. My academic goals for my 10th-grade year are to be more productive and stay on top of my work. I also want to have better study habits and be more focused.

Maryori M. '21

Overall, this school year I have been an excellent student-athlete who gives her all in the classroom as well as on the field. I'm proud of my work because I made it this far. I didn't believe that I was going to make it. This year I did not have all A's like last year. However, I understand that the courses I am taking are rigorous and I've been consistently earning 4.10 and up GPAs each quarter. This makes me proud. Next year, I hope that I become a better student and person and be more organized.

Kyndell G. '20

The academic goals that I have completed so far are the following. I have only received A's and B's this year, no C's. I also learned how to play the piano during music class. As well as learning the piano, I also won second place during the Science Fair. My goals for next year include getting into North Carolina A&T and receiving a lot of scholarships so that I can pay for my tuition. I also hope to stay on top of my work and continue to only get A's and B's. I will make sure that I meet these goals by keeping a checklist and staying motivated.

Noelle M. '21

This year I had a lot of challenges finishing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program Personal Project. This project took a lot of energy and time. However, I was able to complete it on time with a passing grade on my essay. Because I passed my personal project, I will be able to do IB next year.

Aiden F. '22

I personally don't keep goals because the sky's the limit. If you set a goal to get a B, then you're saying, "I am going to get a B and stop." That is not how I roll. I don't like limits. But, if I did have goals they would be to finish the year with a GPA of a 3.8 and above, to go to Drexel or MIT, and build a personal computer.

Jada P. '20

I want to leave high school with a GPA of 3.5 or higher and be at the top of my class. My transcript should contain all A's and B's. I also want to achieve an SAT score of over 1000 and in the range of 1100-1200. I then want to go to college up north, as in Temple, or down south, as in Valdosta, Clark, and Spelman. I want to graduate from college on the Dean's List. I want to get my own apartment in the city, with a city view. Hopefully, I will be working in my field, or working towards gaining entry into my field. In the future, I hope to start my own non-profit organization where I work as an image consultant, stylist, and interior designer. I want to help low-income families with fashion tips, stylish design tips, and help them be comfortable,



Mekhai M. '20

The academic goals that I set for this school year were to maintain a GPA above a 4.0 in my junior year, study actively for my AP Exams and continue to do my best in my AP classes. I also wanted to attend STEM in Your Hood and Medi-Tech at least once this year, but more if possible. Finally, I wanted to explore more information about colleges. These goals were achieved. The goals I am working to accomplish include working on at least one scholarship a week, take the ACT in the summer and continuously study for it when my AP Exams end. I am also working to bring up my SAT score and working on taking two SAT subject tests; both of those goals will take place over the summer to finish up my junior year solidly. Also, I want to complete the Junior workbook assignments and continuously be in the guidance suite talking to my counselor, DC-CAP advisor, and other professionals. For next year, my goals are to come back to school having all the requirements prepared for applications, so I can be ahead of my classmates when we start to apply to colleges. I also want to communicate with alumni associations at the schools I am interested in, so I can become more familiar with the schools and understand financial aid decisions and the scholarships they offer. I will achieve these goals with the help of my counselor and College Bound.

During the school year, what was one academic obstacle you were faced with? How were you able to overcome it?

James A. '23

One of the struggles I went through during the school year was with my organization skills. I used to forget when certain things were due or where things were. But my mentor and I started to organize my life and helped me to create goals to accomplish for the next day. As we went through the school year, I became more organized and was able to achieve my goals.



Jackson L. '23

During this school year, one challenge I faced was preparing for tests. At the beginning of the year, all of the information I was learning was easy. I got cocky and stopped taking good notes because I could just hold all of the information in my head. Then the material became harder. I would be struggling with one thing and have to learn something else. Since my notes were bad, I had nothing to study off of. After I tanked a couple of quizzes, I knew that wasn't going to work anymore. I started taking good notes. I got some friends to help me fill in the notes I didn't take during class and got caught up and gained a better understanding of the material I didn't understand before. Luckily, I was able to come back and learn the material so that when finals come around, I won't be completely unprepared. I am glad to have learned to never slack up on your education.

Averill J. '22

The biggest academic obstacle I had to overcome was balancing my workload. My school gives a lot of work and on top of that, mini projects. I tend to be so focused on certain things that I forget about the others. Going into next year, I will make sure to be more organized, tracking and managing my workload.

Zakiya R. '19

The most challenging obstacle I dealt with in high school this year was Spanish. It was very difficult at times, but then I got help and asked more questions. I began to notice a difference and started to improve more. My grades started getting better, and my test scores were great. I was so happy to be doing well in Spanish.

Dorian C. '22

One obstacle I faced this year was time management. I've been having trouble keeping up with work because there is so much of it and I would just get overwhelmed. The way I overcame the obstacle was by doing some work on my own, and I would do some with a tutor. I would also do the important stuff first and then do the smaller things latter.

Maya C. '22

One obstacle I have overcome this year was my geometry class. At the beginning of the quarter, I had an E. Over the past four months I have raised my grade to an 89.3% grade average which is a high B. Math has always been challenging for me, but when I work hard, it always pays off in the end.



Nina B. '20

An academic obstacle that I faced this year was managing my time for studying and completing homework on time. I would do some homework at the beginning of the site, before, and during and after school, so I did not always have to worry a lot about it when I go home. When I would have a majority of my homework done, I would be able to completely study, so I did not have to do retakes or make a lot of corrections.

Laila H. '22

An obstacle that I faced at school this year was trying to maintain good grades in Spanish and history. They are my hardest classes because Spanish is pretty complicated and there is a lot of work in history. Asking questions about things that other students understand is also an obstacle. I started to ask questions and began to understand more.

Rachel P. '19

This year, my biggest academic obstacle was starting the DP program. Passing my higher-level classes has been difficult, but manageable. I was able to overcome this challenge by going to tutoring, asking for help from teachers and bettering my writing skills. This year has been difficult, but I have been able to pass all classes.

Wyatt G. '22

One obstacle I was faced with this year happened not long ago. Last Friday, I took the first PSAT ever, and it was really hard and really long. It had four parts, and each section had 50 questions. Half of those 200 questions were Algebra questions, and the other half of the questions were English Language Arts questions. It was the hardest thing I have ever done, but I tried, and I did it. I got 1130 points out of 1400.

**Darren W. '22**

The biggest challenge that I had to overcome this year was in my anatomy class first semester. Before winter break, I had to take a unit exam. The requirement was to name 50 bones in the skeletal system, but right before I was to take it, the teacher bumped it up to 75 bones. So, I knew that I failed. I went back to him and told him that I knew that I failed and asked him what I could do to replace the grade. I ended up writing a 2,000-word essay on a disease to pass the class with an A at the end of the first quarter.

Dakota C. '22

My academic struggle was getting help and asking for help. I did not realize how much it improves a grade and helps you to understand things better. Completing homework assignments was a challenge for me too, I would get too easily distracted, and I begin to procrastinate. However, I have learned to get the work done before I relax and to also ask questions.



Jabari P. '22

An obstacle I overcame this year was not turning my homework in on time. At first, I did not care about my homework, as it did not affect my grades too much. I was able to learn the importance of it with the help of my parents and by motivating myself with incentives.

James J. '19

One academic obstacle that I faced this school year was applying to college and for scholarships while keeping up with my schoolwork. This was an obstacle for me because I have terrible time management. My solution to this problem was to make a list of everything that I had to do, how long it would take me to do it, and what time I would start each task. This was a very effective solution for me.

Terri F. '21

During the school year, one academic obstacle I faced was my chemistry class. The teacher is way harder than the teacher I had last year which is a good and bad thing. She pushes me harder than the teacher did last year. I feel like I needed to get used to her teaching style and the new material that was being taught. I was able to overcome this obstacle by going to my teacher during lunch and, sometimes after school, to get help on lessons that I didn't quite understand. That really helped me a lot, and I ended the term 2 with an A and term 3 with a B. In addition, I turned my homework in early, so I can receive extra credit.

What careers are you interested in? Why did you choose this career?

Heaven F. '20

My dream job is to become a nurse or physical therapist. It fits me because I am already into sports and studying sports medicine or any kind of medicine is the route I want to go. I like to help people, and I feel as though medicine is a career that would allow me to help people daily.

Jordyn M. '21

Challenges come, and challenges go, but less the lessons you learn you will always know. A challenge I faced this school year was adapting to the difficulties of the 10th-grade year. There was a lot to deal with at the beginning of this year such as new classes, new teachers, and even longer school days because I decided to take some after school AP classes and attend cheer-leading practice after school. I was able to overcome this challenge by learning how to manage my time. I still face obstacles, but with prayer, God, and my strong support system I continue to overcome them. I am extremely proud of myself for being persistent and not giving up when things are hard. I'm blessed, and I can't wait to complete this school year.

Lucca B. '21

As far back as I can remember, I have genuinely wanted to go into a profession that helps others. As I am getting older and older, I am really starting to think about going into nursing or more specifically, becoming a nurse practitioner. I realize the role that nurses play in informing and helping patients is much bigger than it seems. I want to be the type of person who helps people. While still enjoying what I do, I believe that becoming a nurse practitioner is the best of both worlds. While you help people, the school required for a nurse practitioner is much less than that of a specialized doctor, and it certainly costs less. Going into the nursing field is my biggest career goal at this moment.

Nya G. '22

I don't know what my dream job would be. All I do know is that I want to be something to somebody. I want to be a role model for young girls. I also want to give back to my community. I have many interests right now, and it is hard to pick just one as a career path. My interests include singing, theater, history, and engineering. Theater makes me feel like I can have different personalities and like I can add something special to each character.

Raven J. '20

My dream job is to be a president and take over. I would be the best independent president ever. I would help the needy and be trustworthy and loyal to the USA. I would change the school system so that children get taught the right thing and be able to be free spirits.

Eve E. '21

My dream job is to work in entertainment. Specifically, I want a career in screenwriting directing, acting, and songwriting. It fits me because I am a multi-talented person. I want to use all of my talents in life no matter how hard I have to work.

**Anahjah B. '20**

Two career choices interest me: Dentistry and Obstetrics. For years I have been interested in becoming an obstetrician/gynecologist because I always thought someone has to do it, so why not me. I am interested in studying women's health and delivering children. However, throughout my time in high school, I've become more interested in dentistry. Each year, I attend the H.O.P.E YES Dental Program at Howard University, which initially captured my interest in dentistry in 9th grade. During the program, we went through clinicals, and I was allowed to drill and fill a cavity. I quickly discovered that I had a natural talent for tasks that require accuracy and precision to the point where Dr. Barham remarked that I should go into this field. From that point forward, I've taken steps to inform myself more about dentistry through research and community service at Elite Dental Center in Takoma Park. Questions that I can now explore include "What course work do you think was most important during your academic career?" and "Do you recommend studying pre-med or pre-dentistry to fulfill my goals or should I consider other majors?" Also, "How many extracurriculars do you recommend that I participate in during undergrad?"



LaDawnah B. '21

I happen to be interested in multiple careers that are based on different topics. I am interested in being an OBGYN, sports attorney, advertiser, and entrepreneur. I love managing businesses and getting people deals and sponsorships. I also have an interest in female health because as a woman myself, I always make sure that I am healthy, and it would be great to make sure others are too.

Erica M. '19

Why is higher education, particularly college or university, important to me? Many years ago, my ancestors did not have a right to an education and every attempt to gain that right, they were denied. When they were permitted to pursue an education, they still had to struggle to receive equality. And that is why higher education at a college or university is so important to me. Having access to higher education would help level the playing field and provide me with options for my future, that were not provided to my ancestors. Now, I have the ability to go well beyond a high school diploma and attend just about any college of my choice. Not only would it make my ancestors proud, but it would make me very proud to know that I am able to earn a college degree and achieve my dreams. One day I hope to become an epidemiologist and the only way to get there is to go to college and continue to seek out intellectually stimulating and academically rigorous coursework. Epidemiology has always been my dream career, and I cannot see myself doing anything other than working in the field of public health. As a result of having big dreams, I am not satisfied with just a high school education. Because I strive to become an epidemiologist, I know how important it is to learn. I value the education that I have received from all my years of school, and I will continue to value it in my future educational goals. Besides pursuing my own career aspirations, I want to be a role model for other young girls and boys like me to make it clear that anything is possible when you set your mind to it and believe in yourself. Not everyone is afforded the opportunity to go on to college, so I am determined not to waste my chances and will make the most of it.

Makkiah B. 22

A career I am interested in is forensic science. A forensic scientist is a person who examines the body of evidence in a criminal trial. I chose this career because I am interested in how people die, and I want to work on stuff that I am interested in.

**PURSUE A
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AND LIFE**



Micah C. '20

My dream job is to become a financial advisor. Once I establish myself in my field, I would like to become a successful owner of my own financial advisory firm. Then I would like to create a network of people and create a financial literacy program for public school students grade K-12. I would also extend my services to underserved communities, the adults especially. I plan on owning properties maybe in one place, maybe in a few different places. This career field fits me because I love helping people and making money. I think that a college degree will be key to my foundation because it would allow me to network and meet new people. Clearly, it would provide me with the education I need to be able to do the job that I actually want to do. I know I will be successful in achieving my goals because I possess most of the tools that I need to be successful, along with an open mind.

Julian S. '19

I've known what my dream job was since I was six years old. I want to be a politician, and there are several reasons why this fits me. Ever since I was young, I loved history and loved studying the leaders of the past. I admire how big of an impact they have made and the fact that they have been dead for so long and we still talk about them. Their legacy enamored me. A legacy is definitely something I desire for myself. I want to make sure that before I leave this earth that I make an impact and be remembered for it. I decided that politics would be a great way to do this. As a policymaker, every decision I make can impact a town, city, state, or entire country. That is what I want out of life, a career where everything I do matters.

Aniya D. '21

I'm not really sure what my dream job is. I originally wanted to major in computer science because I enjoy coding, but I haven't really been into that stuff anymore. Now I'm kind of thinking about majoring in law (maybe because of my experience at work and in D.C. History). If I could, I would want a career where I could mix the two. I enjoy the coding, but I also want to be able to represent people who need help, and I'm intrigued by the whole "taxation without representation" and "no congressional representation." Maybe I could be like Garcia from Criminal Minds; her job seems fun!

Nya P. '20

The careers that I am interested in are psychiatry and physical therapy. Recently, well for the past few months, we've been learning about struggles and mental illnesses that soldiers have dealt with after WWI. Many soldiers have PTSD, lost limbs, or have a mental illness that keeps them from coping with the past. Psychiatry seems interesting to me because many of my family members fought in the Vietnam War. So, I take a special interest in helping those people get through traumatic events they have been through. Therapy has always been a side thing I wanted to do because it seems interesting to help people talk through their problems.

Christopher P. '21

In college, I want to study sports management so that I can have a future in sports as a coach, manager, or owner. These are just backup plans if being an actual sports player does not work out. I would like to be involved in many sports, not just football, such as basketball, baseball, or even hockey.



Gabriel G. '19

I intend to pursue a future career in journalism/creative writing. I have been writing as a hobby since I was seven years old and love to express myself through the written word. Through journalism, I will be able to personally convey and translate stories and struggles of myself and others in a way to invoke empathy and curiosity in all who read my articles. With creative writing, I will be able to push my creative abilities to write life into stories that my readers can get lost in and escape into while reading them.

Lyndsey C. '20

My dream job would be to become a lawyer. But I think I could also see myself working with something that has to do with international stuff and traveling the world because I think that is something I would enjoy doing. So, I am undecided about what I would like to do if I had to choose for the rest of my life because it is a job that I would work until I no longer can.

Toya T. '19

When I grow up, I'd like to be a genetic engineer or a patent attorney. I've decided on these careers because of my love for biology and genetics as well as law. I realized I loved genetics in my freshman biology class when doing punnet squares. I also have a love for law and policy that I gained from being on the debate team for three years. I can prepare for career night by researching people who I will encounter so I can have questions for them.

Darv'ell D. '20

My dream job has been to make it to Major League Baseball (MLB) ever since I started playing baseball. I always wanted to live the dream like Ken Griffey Jr. and be a great baseball player like him. But if I don't make it to the MLB, I want to become a commentator and be one of the best at it; not a Stephen A. Smith type, though.



Tyson S. '23

As of now, I am interested in three careers. These careers include anesthesiology, marine biology, and video gaming. I am most interested in marine biology and gaming although anesthesiologists make a good, not great, amount of money. I have researched the different salaries, and the medical doctor makes the most money while the video gamer makes the least.

Ava H. '21

To create my legacy, I will continue with my Chinese in the future and continue to network worldwide. I hope to make my elementary school, YuYing, a franchise school across the country to give children across the United States to have the same amazing opportunity to be fluent at a young age and to study abroad in China. Speaking Chinese has already opened so many doors for me at only 16. Who is to tell what additional opportunities I'll come across in the future and what better opportunities the kids of Washington YuYing will have in the upcoming years?



Latrell D. '21

Similarly, to Nipsey Huddle, I want to have the ability to provide for my neighborhood and have a positive impact. Giving back to my neighborhood will encourage others to do the same. Down the street from my house, Kevin Durant opened a learning center and basketball court for children. I realize the importance of Kevin Durant's actions and how the citizens of Prince George's County embrace him. I want to be a role model for my community and family members. Unfortunately, not everyone has the same idea. When Nipsey Huddle was gunned down, it showed how hateful and cruel people can be. To conclude, I must stay focused and work hard to be a role model and have a positive impact on the community.

Cenaria F. '21

I want my legacy to others to be helpful and life changing. I want others to feel that I helped them when they were challenges that they were facing. I also want my legacy to be successful and beneficial for not only others but also for myself. The steps that I am currently taking to create my legacy are working on my communications skills. I want to be a nurse, so I am going to go to college and major in pediatric nursing.

Amonie C. '20

The steps I am taking to create my legacy include graduating from high school and then going to college to further my education in theater arts. When I am done studying in college, I am going to go into lighting, stage management, costume design, audio, and scene design. I really want to focus on these areas because they are the ones that I am most successful in and I really enjoy working in.

Diamonique P. '20

I want my legacy to be to empower my community positively. I want to be able to impact my community so that they can follow my steps and go on to doing something better. I want to leave behind the feeling of being inspired by my actions. Nipsey Hussle opened people's eyes to the bigger issue in the world, and he left behind an amazing legacy that allowed people to follow his path towards peace and equality. I want my legacy to make a change. Currently, I am taking advantage of my free education and being a proud African American. I am still building my legacy to be great and helping others so I can lead by a great example.



Andrianna L. '20

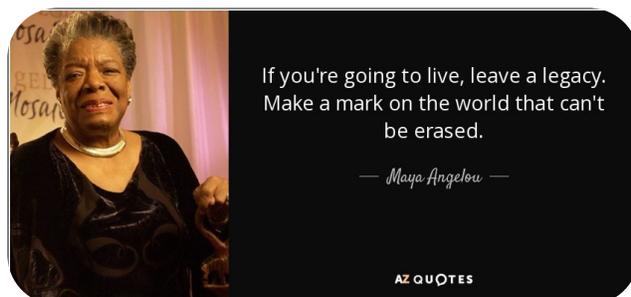
I want my legacy to be something that reflects my true self and all of my hard work. When Nipsey Hussle died, no one talked ill about him. They only spoke of the good he did for himself and the people in his community. From him being self-made by owning his matters to his music to all the things he was doing for his community like buying back the hood. A legacy can also mean something that you inherit. While inheritance is great, I understand the true value of experience, so I want to be known for all I have experienced and how I overcame it. I want to be known for being the best me I can be and knowing people only got the true me. Knowing that you made an impact on someone like Nipsey Hussle did is also something that I would like to be remembered for. No matter if I am a philanthropist or a scientist, I want to make an impact on someone.

Jalen W. '21

Legacy is a very tricky thing to talk about. A legacy like beauty is within the eye of the beholder. Do I want to be known all over as empathetic, charismatic, and intelligent? Of course. Will that happen? Probably not. I want people to know me for the good things I have done, but I also want people to be able to formulate their own unbiased opinion. I want future generations to know me as a role model; I want the present to know me as a great leader. Most importantly, I want my elders to know what they did for me was not in vain. Every single second, cent, sentiment, put into me has made me someone they can be proud of. I want to be someone people wish they knew and that they are glad to know. To do this I will be myself, but I will try a little harder. Be more consistent, be more reliable; be me on personality steroids.

Zakiyya E. '20

I am not sure what I want my legacy to be. I know that I want to have a career and do the best that I can. At this moment in life, I am trying to kick old habits so that I can be more successful and efficient in college. I am also trying to branch out and begin exploring what I want to do as a career.





Laurence P. '21

What is a legacy? A legacy is something that people leave behind after passing. A legacy most of the time is a positive thing about someone's life. What would my legacy be? I am not sure what my legacy would be or what I would want it to be. I'm not sure because I've only been alive for so long and don't know what I want to be remembered for. If I had to pick something as my legacy, it would be to be as a lacrosse player, Chinese speaker who cared for others. I want people to remember me for my good life and not the troubled parts. I want people to talk about how funny I was, how I looked out for people close to me. I want people to remember the dreams I had of making it to college and become a sports journalist.



What's your Legacy?



Amonie C. '20

The steps I am taking to create my legacy include graduating from high school and then going to college to further my education in theater arts. When I am done studying in college, I am going to go into lighting, stage management, costume design, audio, and scene design. I really want to focus on these areas because they are the ones that I am most successful in and I really enjoy working in.

Kyree B. '22

The best thing that I'd like to be known for is being a great doctor who could do everything. A step that I am currently taking to leave a legacy is joining the STEM program at my school with a focus on biotechnology. It is a path that could lead me to the path I would like to go down. I want to give back and help the people who need help. I'd also like to help people that are hurt, and I also want to create something for people with a disease.

Bailey A. '23

I think that the word "legacy" is thrown around a lot and especially for my age I'm not creating or following one yet. I think that I'm kind of going down the right path, but then sometimes I think I am not. I say I'm going down the right path because I know how to take care of myself and surround myself with intelligent people. I say that I am not going down the right path because everyone makes mistakes, but I always learn and know how to bounce back from them. I want my legacy to be successful and pretty well known so when others see me, they are like "oh, she's a great leader." I just want to be a leader and lead by a great example.

Larry W. '20

I want my legacy to be a combination of three things: being a self-made businessman, philanthropist, and family man. In order to be a good businessman, I will develop a great service and product. To be a philanthropist, I will raise money that will help kids in my area. To be a family man, I will plan and schedule family trips.

Amaya B. '21

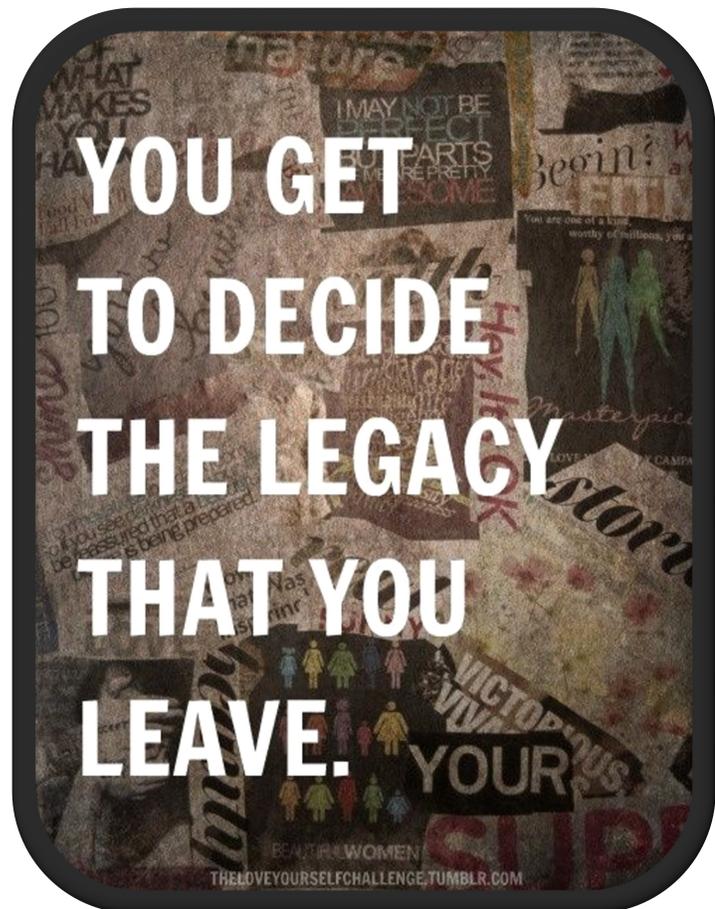
Nipsey was not only inspirational through his music but in his actions as well. He did a lot for the people in his community and around the world. Nipsey was trying to change the world for the better and was actually trying to make changes, something that I really admire. He inspires me to play a bigger part in my community and do more to see the changes I want to happen. In the future, I want young black girls to look up to me and realized that they can do and be anything. In my future work, I want to break barriers to show young girls that there is no limit and that color and gender are not limitations. In the future, I plan to give back to minorities through mentorship, scholarships, and programs to motivate them and teach them not to let anything stop them and to not let criticism and negativity affect them and their goals.

Nichelle J. '20

I want to leave a legacy of having spoken my mind for the benefit of my community. I want to be known as a hometown hero just like Nipsey Hussle. I will achieve this legacy by giving powerful meaning in all my talks with the community. Making sure everyone in the community eats and more just like Nipsey Hussle was trying to do. Nipsey was a hero for his hometown community, and I hope to be just like him (minus the rapping, that part is not for me). The first steps I will take to get me where I want to go include giving away the old clothing that I don't use to people who need it as well as blankets and pillows to the homeless. I believe that if I start to do this then it will spread, and it can get bigger and bigger until my legacy is all over the world. Instead of being the town's hero, I will be known as the world's hero.

Kunmi B. '21

When I think about the legacy that I want to create, I think about what I want people to know me for. Not only do I want to be known as a positive, vibrant person, but I also want to be known as someone who has made a change in the world and helped others. I want to try and reach back to my native land. My parents and my entire family are from Nigeria. I want to give back to the community that helped shape my mom and has somewhat shaped me. There is so much that I could do to help Nigeria. For example, proper education there is very scarce for many children. I could start by creating a foundation that works on getting better books for them to read and study from. Later on, I can continue to establish the foundation by finding a way to get more teachers there and more affordable and accessible schools for all children. I want to also find a way to give the children things that I rarely got like Christmas and birthday presents.



Anthony C. '20

When I die, I want my name to live on forever. I want the legacy I leave behind to influence people and open minds of generations after me. I want to leave a big impact on the people I interact with and even people I don't physically interact with. I would love for schools to teach scholars about me and the impact I have had on people's lives. I want to be known for giving back to my community like Nipsey, providing my people with knowledge, giving people a positive way of thinking, and leaving my family with wealth, so they don't have to work as hard. As of right now, I can prepare a business plan to become a successful entrepreneur. I would want to leave all my businesses to my children. Once I get enough revenue, the next step will be to influence my peers to become successful as well.



What are the origins of Black History Month and how did it become a national celebration? Who is your favorite figure in African American history?

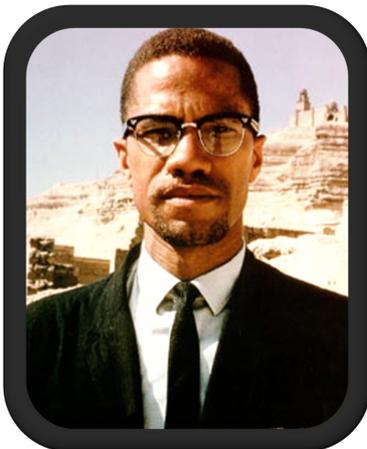
Myles W. '21

The father of Black History Month is Carter G. Woodson. The holiday began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora. Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States.



Jayla D.'22

Black History Month was created because many blacks were standing up for our rights. In 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson began a celebration of black men and women. Someone who I honor during this month is Mae C. Jemison. She was the first black female astronaut in space.

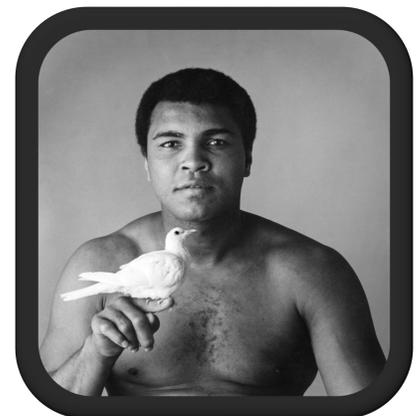


Tervondre W. '19

The origin of Black History Month is the importance of Black leaders who brought peace and dedication into society. My favorites were Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks because they faced many challenges to help the people and they brought bravery. Plus, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King because they brought peace and bravery also.

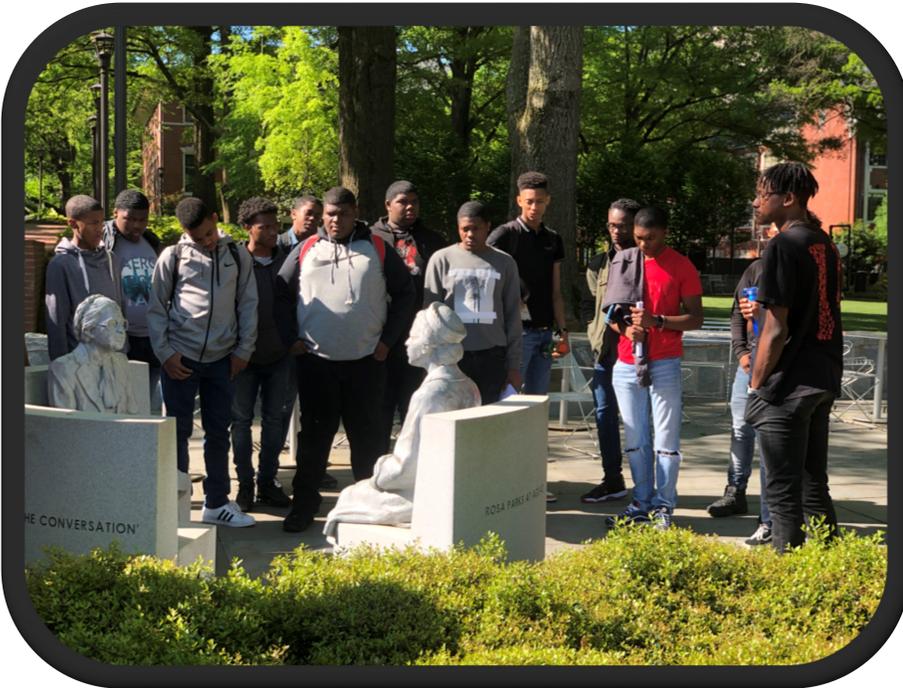
Jaden S. '20

Black History month originated from the “Negro History Week” that took place in 1926 but was later transformed into BHM. From that, president Ford seeing that popularity of the holiday named it a national holiday. Muhammad Ali is my favorite figured in African American history because he chose civil rights and the improvement of the conditions of black people over his success as a boxer, especially considering that he was a world champion.



Coree G. '21

The origins of Black History Month are rooted in the work of Carter G. Woodson. The Association for the Study of Negro Life announced a week-long celebration in the second week of February. It was a way of remembering important people and events in the history of African Americans. My favorite African American figure is Rosa Parks. This is because she always stood up for what she believed in and never changed for anyone.



Ben D. '23

My favorite civil rights activist is Rosa Parks. I like her because she stood up for what was right although it was against the rules. Although the police officer told her to get up, she knew she was fighting for what would help or would encourage others and it did. The police officer took her to jail for not following the law, and her actions spurred the civil rights movement and initiated the bus boycott. This led to black people being able to sit in the front of the bus, so going through all that trouble was for a good reason.

Brandon D. '22

Black History Month is celebrated in February all across the United States. It is a time when we remember all the important black people who put their lives on the line to change the way African Americans are treated. People may also wear Dashiki's to represent their culture and eat all the magnificent food that our ancestors crafted. One person I like to celebrate is Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States. This man proves to me that regardless of your skin color, you can accomplish anything you put your mind to. This means a lot to me because people hated on him sadly because of his skin color and he did not let that slow him down. He went on to be the president for two consecutive terms. This man defied the odds.

Jermaine E. 19

Black history month means to me is celebrating the black people who did things for us. It means celebrating them having fought for our rights, freedom, and more. By us I mean African American because I am one. I feel like the holiday also shows how we came from nothing and made it to something.



Mydier H. '21

The precursor to black history month was created in 1926 in the United States when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced that second week of February to be “Negro History Week.” Black History Month became a month-long celebration of African American achievement and is a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in history. My favorite figures in African American history is Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King.



Jada G. '10

Black History Month is the celebration of blacks doing what others said we couldn't. A lot of blacks became the first to do things that only whites could do. My favorite African American figure would have to be Michelle Obama, the First Lady, and wife of Barack Obama. She is my favorite because she is trying to help keep kids in shape and to lower America's obesity levels.



Christian D. '23

I believe that black history month was good for African Americans to raise their spirits because we as a whole are being celebrated on a specific month. It was celebrated because of people like Rosa Parks, she started a boycott and gave African Americans a choice to sit wherever they want. Many other civil rights leaders have done so much to make sure that people are getting the best life and rights that they can get. My favorite leader is Michael Jordan because he was a pro basketball and baseball player and was pretty good at both. He came to the Bulls and won back-to-back championships. He was a Hall of Fame player with six rings going down as one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Do you think it is important for people to vote? Why or why not? Should the United States continue to keep the same system of an electoral college? Are the current checks and balances (3 branches of government) an

Yao C. '21

Yes, I believe that voting is very important. The main reason is that if people who are able to vote and don't, first of all, do not respect our ancestors who worked so hard so for them to have the right to vote. Voting is also important because it gives you a say in who is going to represent you and your state. If you don't vote, you are abusing the right, and it should be taken away. Lastly, I saw a quote that said something like marching is more work than having to go to the polls and vote. Basically, what that means is that if we just vote now for the right people, we won't be disappointed and have to protest the laws that the person put in charge made, all because we did not vote.

Assata B. '23

I think that it is important for United States citizens to vote because people did a lot of work in the past to make sure we had the right to vote. If we don't vote, we are not advocating for ourselves. We should keep the electoral system because there is no better way to decide the presidential election.



Charles A. '23

I feel that it is important to vote because it allows all people the opportunity to have their voice heard. If you don't vote, you are giving away your rights. The electoral college, in my opinion, is not good because I think that every vote should be counted, allowing people to make decisions for themselves. I feel like the checks and balances system should be a little more strict on what the president does.



Symone M. '19

If I could vote, I would vote for the candidate that is most likely to have a positive impact on the community. I would also vote for the person who is supportive of equal rights. I plan to make a difference in my community by making sure everyone votes and making sure they are voting for the best candidate.

Charles A. '23

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Irash G. '19

I believe that it is important for people to vote because people should always have a say in who they want to represent them. It is important for people to vote because it helps makes decisions in our country. The United States should keep the electoral college. They should regulate the voting process so that no mistakes occur and also update it in a way that encourages more people to vote.



Aryn M. '21

I believe it is important for everyone to vote. If everyone voted, there would be a tremendous change. Although you may not want to vote for a candidate, you should vote anyway. You should vote for the candidate who would create the most change not who is most popular or has a larger net worth. The United States should not keep the system of the electoral college. They should move toward the system based on the popular vote. With the electoral college, everyone's voice is technically not heard. The current checks and balances system is an effective way to police the government because it prevents one branch of the government from becoming more powerful than the other.



Danae G. '19

I believe it is important for people to vote because those are the people who determine the future. Some of the ways that votes are counted can be unfair, and I believe that they should find a more effective way to calculate votes equally. The three branches of government are a good way to police the government, but there are some things they can do to improve the way votes are calculated and scored to ensure that power is divided equally/ fairly between all states.



Ezell H. '20

I think that we should not keep the Electoral College because in some cases, like the most recent presidential election one candidate wins the popular election but do not win the number of electoral votes to become president. I believe that the U.S. should keep the checks and balances system because it keeps everything in order and makes sure that every part of the government has an equal amount of power. It could be a bad thing if one part of the government had too much power.

London A. '20

Voting is an opportunity to decide to elect someone to office who shares ideas that are similar to what you believe. If people do not vote, then ideas and policy that the general population wants to be put in place may not be executed. The electoral college should not be the system that is used when voting. Everyone's vote matters, so the popular vote should be used when voting for the President.



Nikyah J. '23

It is important to vote because it gives you a say in who goes to work for our government. It is so important that women and black people fought for the right to vote. The checks and balances system is a good way to police the government because it keeps one part of the government from ending up too powerful. It helps control everything.

Jazmia Q. '22

I believe it is important to vote because I believe that everyone's opinion matters. Voting gives you input in who takes office. Another reason is if someone you don't like is elected, and you did not vote, it is partially your fault because your one vote could have been the one that made a difference. Everyone should vote and use their right to speak freely, a right declared by the first amendment.

Makiyah W. '19

Voting is important because they give us a chance to choose the leaders and representatives who will do things that are important to them. Voting lets citizens tell the government what they want to do. No one should be forced to vote, however. I do not believe that the electoral college should stay in place because it is unfair. The popular vote is better.

Jalen Q. '19

It is important to vote because you want to ensure that you have your say in who represents you. I feel like the United States should keep the electoral college because it gives each state the proper representation based on its population. I believe the checks and balances system is an effective way to police the government because it makes sure that no one branch has too much power over the government or country.

Ayanna M. '20

It is important to vote because voting gives people a voice. Voting allows underrepresented people to be heard. Voting also ensures that the right people are in charge of decision-making. The United States should keep the same voting system because electoral votes are more spread out than the popular vote. The current checks and balances system is an effective way to police the government because one branch cannot become too powerful.

Federal prosecutors have accused dozens of parents of paying millions of dollars in bribes to help their children get into the schools. What are your thoughts about this? What do you think should be the consequence for the parents and the school involved?



Kennedy C. '21

After hearing about the recent college scandal, my thoughts about the situation as a whole is confused. I am confused about why people of such wealth would feel the need to cheat to succeed. Honestly, if education was an issue for their child, they have enough money to supply them with needed resources, like tutors or online programs. However, they took the opportunity of being accepted to a prestigious college, away from students who worked hard for that spot. And that's simply how I feel about this issue. In result, the parent's children should be expelled from their current college and forced to reapply with their original SAT

Jorge C. '19

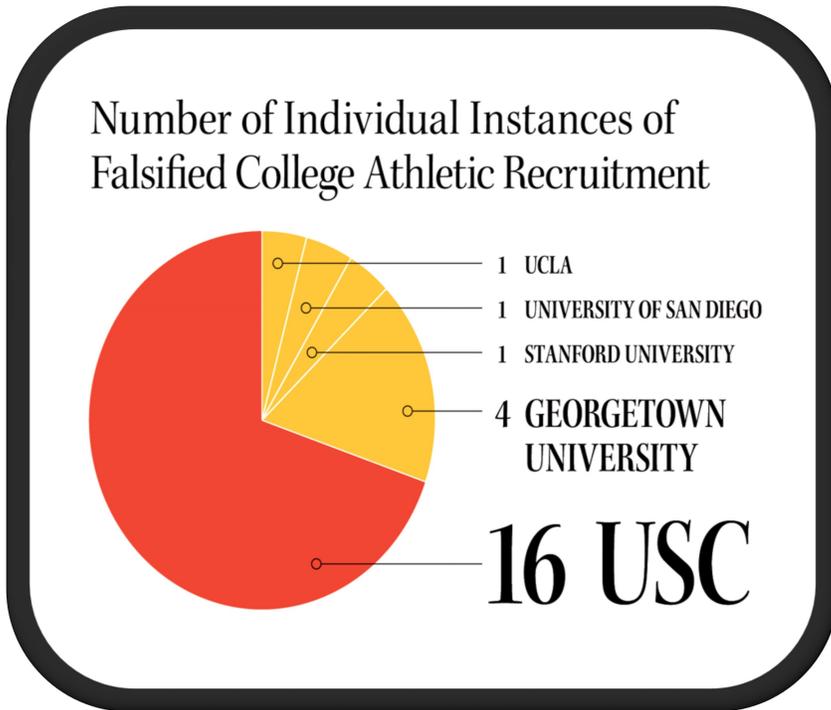
My opinion on the college scandal is that it was bound to happen sometime if people have money, they have the power to do whatever they want. The only thing is that they are taking away from the opportunity of others, and they are not doing the correct thing because they are not prepared for the school, they are buying themselves into.

Jaylen T. '19

I believe that parent paying their kids way in are really taking spots away from people who are working hard to get in. I don't believe that the parents should go to jail, but they should do community service or something along those lines. He kids should retake their test and redo their application process, so they earn their spot fairly.

Darius M. '21

My thoughts on the college admissions scandal are that the people involved should be sued for a hefty amount and do an appropriate amount of jail time for stealing money just so their kids can get into a nice school. This was also very wrong on the parents of those kids because there may have been other student who was worthy enough to get into college but couldn't because these unworthy students took their spot.



Weslee J. '23

I feel that scamming college isn't right and should be given and served with major consequences. Scamming college not only leads to illegal activities, but it cheats other students out of making it into college. I think the consequence of scamming college should be jail time because it prevents other students from being able to go to school.

Kennedy S. '22

Cheating your way into college is not fair to kids with very little money who are applying to school as well. I feel as though the parents were wrong because you should not use your money to get you into places. I also feel like their children should not be accepted into the college that their parents cheated their way into.

Kaniyah B. '22

I think that parents paying for their kids to get into school is unfair because a lot of kids work really hard to get in the schools they apply to. Even though they want to college, some people cannot go even after everything they have done. The parents that pay for their children to get into college are not helping them to prepare for their future.

Jae'la R. '19

Hearing about the college cheating scandal was shocking, but it wasn't surprising. I had always figured that people were doing it, but I never thought that it would be the parents doing it and not telling their child. I feel as if these parents have messed up opportunities for future scholars who are trying to apply to those schools. The punishment that the parents should receive is jail time. They not only messed up their own future but also their children's.

Rachel H. '20

I feel that students and their parents paying their way into school is unfair to other kids that work really hard to earn their spot at top schools. I feel that it's unacceptable that people pay for their kids to get into a school that they didn't even earn to get in. I feel that the parent should be responsible of falsifying their child's college application because they are the ones being dishonest about their child's accomplishments, and think that money will solve the problems of their child being incapable. I feel that the consequences of these crimes should be substantially high because committing academic dishonesty can throw you out of schools. I feel that the parents should be charged with academic honesty, and the university should keep the money for evidence, and kick out the students that are involved because it is really unfair to the students that work hard for a spot in these top colleges.



ADMISSIONS SCANDAL

Braxton C. '20

I that the people who paid their way into college need to be kicked out of college and if they already graduated, they should be put into jail. I think they should be kicked out of college because they are not using their own intelligence to be accepted into the school. That also can hurt the people on the waiting list that put their hard work into the SAT and didn't get excepted into the school. They are messing up other people's education. They should actually put the parents in jail not the students because they have no control over that.

Terrell C. '20

I feel that everyone should have an equal opportunity when it comes to applying for schools. Students should be able to get in before a kid who worked just as hard for their spot on the waiting list because they have more money. Things like this occur all the time with school and even other things, but this is putting everyone out of an equal opportunity. It's sort of like voting but someone interferes with the votes.



Timothy B. '19

I think the government should sue the schools for allowing this scandal to happen, and I think the students should be kicked out of the schools and the parents should be locked up. They basically stole from the school. I can understand, though, why the parents did this for their children. The students probably didn't have good enough grades and test scores. The parents probably didn't want their child to end up on the street. They just wanted the best for their children. Now the school should be aware of these things so they should be disciplined too.

Laniejah L. '23

I believe the bribery scandal is unfair due to the fact that people with money abuse their privilege. By paying their kids way into college, the parents take an opportunity from people that are actually smart and can't go to the school of their choice because someone bought their way into it. I think the parent should go to jail because they are taking an opportunity from another child.

Treasure C. '23

As a young, educate, black girl, I think the college cheating scandal is unfair. People that don't deserve to a spot in college should not be able to pay their way into college. Colleges should give people that need and want to get into a good college a chance to get in.

Ayana B. '19

My thought about the brazen college scheme situation is that it is crazy. I feel as though if a kid didn't earn a spot into Yale, they shouldn't have gotten in. No amount of money should be enough to buy your way in. I understand that parents wanted what was best for their child, but the consequences for this should be that their child should not be able to go to university in the United States and have to attend community college if they would like to further their education. For the schools involved, they should pay a full ride for at least ten kids to any college with the money the parents gave.

Kiyla T. '19

I think the college scandal is very appalling. I believe that the participants did not think their plan through. I feel like they could have put their money into better things and more beneficial uses for their children to be successful. The scandal was unnecessary. They didn't have to spend half of the money they spent to pay people off. With as much money as they had, they could've paid regular tuition or invested their money somewhere else for their children to be set for life. They do deserve to go to jail because they were wrong. They also shouldn't be able to have access to all of the money they have because they obviously don't know what to do with it.

Damonie R. '22

I think that the bribery scandal is not fair because if you know that your child isn't a good student or ready for college, you should find ways to help your child. You should not cheat your way into college because you are cheating your way through life.





Larenai S. '19

Confidence, by definition, is a feeling of trust in one's abilities, qualities, and judgment. For me, the most important aspect of confidence is love, not trust. To be confident is to love to be true to yourself, regardless or even in spite of what the outside world is saying. This true meaning of confidence was revealed to me once I cut my hair. Most people would love long, thick, manageable hair, but that was no longer what I saw fit in my life.

At 6, my mother put my first perm in my hair. Perms are primarily used on black hair to chemically alter the curl pattern or coarseness. Before the perm, doing my hair was a full day job. My mom went through a routine of washing my hair twice, conditioning my hair, styling my hair and repeat. I have arrived late or not gone to events because my hair was not done. My hair was a mission that had to be done carefully to stop it from being a complete fail. The perm took away that struggle - it was a quick fix that solved my "problems." The problems of how long my hair took to tend to. The problem of not having the same hair as the women on television. The hair the world told me I was supposed to have.

This is not the classic beauty salon image from a classic movie, with long rows of women chatting pleasantly with their heads under dryers. This was a process - it was long. It burned my scalp. The smell was sickening, but that is what I had to do. That is what the world said I had to do. At least, that's what I thought.

There comes a point in every young woman's life when her appearance becomes important. Going to school and seeing other little girls wear their natural hair in bush balls and naturally curly made me wonder why my hair wouldn't do those things. I was confused. When I pointed out to my mom that I wanted my hair to look like that, she usually brushed me off or told me it was not possible. I wanted to wear those hairstyles as my friends did. I wanted to embrace my natural curl pattern. After six years of having a perm, I decided enough was enough.

I wanted the flexibility that I lost to the perm.

I told my mom that I no longer wanted to perm my hair. She was very hesitant - it meant she would have to go back to the tedious ritual of maintaining and styling my hair. Despite her attempts to persuade me to keep my perming routine, I desperately wanted to change my hair from the artificial straightness into my authentic mane.

This marked the beginning of my journey of growing out my natural hair. Again, it was a process - a slow process. But this time, it was one I controlled. One that brought me to that authentic mane. When my hair grew out a little, I would cut some of the permed hair out. I was literally washing it out of my hair. Every day I tended my hair and monitored its growth, so I could relish in the reward of cutting more of the permed hair off. One day, I decided my hair had grown long enough and cut a large amount off to complete the transition stage.

Now that I was fully natural, I was liberated. I am liberated - I have now been natural for almost six years. It is bizarre to think about how a small physical change makes the biggest internal impact. Since I returned natural, I am confident and have learned the value of self-love. Doing my hair is no longer a burden - it is a gift, a creative outlet. Taking control of my hair was a step to connect with myself. My hair is not in one style every day, which has taught me patience and diligence. Not every hairstyle I try is a success: I have tried and failed at many hairstyles, but that never discouraged me from trying again or trying something new. My hair is something I can showcase to the world. And I learned that confidence is contagious - two years later, my mom was inspired to go natural, which has brought her to her own journey of self-love and expression.



Aya W. '21 "The Teenager"

There is a woman, sitting in bed next to her husband, reading a book. This woman is not extraordinary, and like any other woman in any other house, she answers the door when her bell is rung. She gets up, smiles at her husband, and walks sleepily to her front door. It is late, but the woman is not suspicious. There is no need for suspicion when there is no crime.

The woman opens her door. A child is sitting outside of it, shivering in the cold. No, not a child. Its legs are too long, too adult. But when the woman looks into its eyes, childlike confusion and fear are present. The woman knows what this is.

This is a danger, a terrifying being capable of not only harming itself but everyone around it as well. She knows that most problems that people had in the old world were rooted in this thing.

No, this is no child.

It's a teenager.

The woman stumbles back, shock and fear on her face.

"Please..." The teenager says it's an expression that of such juvenile innocence that the woman is almost fooled.

But the woman knows. She's seen the public service announcements. She goes to the mandatory lectures. The dangers of the teenager are no mystery to her. She knows to stay away.

But it looks so helpless, so cold, so thin. The woman starts to bend down to help the teenager. Its arms reach out to her, grateful.

The woman knows that it could hurt her. She, like everyone else, spent seven years in a forced sleep to protect herself and her loved ones and to let her mind finish maturing. But despite better judgment, despite common sense, the woman can't stop herself from hugging the child. It laughs a little, body heaving from sobs and cold.

"Thank you so, so much." It whispers into her ear. "You can't imagine what this means to me, I'm so, so grat-"

Then, a gunshot. The teenager falls.

The snow is red. The woman's nightgown is red. Everything is red.

A man steps into view. He is wearing all black, an official vest with badges signifying importance adorning it. He is holding a gun pointed towards the woman's head.

She is reminded painfully of what happens to those who sympathize with teenagers. She wonders what she has just cost herself.

But the gun is lowered. The official speaks.

"You were ensnared by the tricks of that creature. For sympathizing, you will be given a warning, but if it happens again, you will be executed without hesitation." The woman nods vigorously, letting the limp body fall from her and standing quickly.

"Now, this teenager, it escaped. We were supposed to execute it due to its behavior." The official says nonchalantly. "Therefore, that makes it our problem and not yours. If you wouldn't mind, we must erase every memory of this event. Please come with me, ma'am." Again, the woman nods, with not a moment of hesitation. Despite the warmth in his voice, she knows there is no other option.

As she is lead away, clad in only her snowy slippers and bloody nightgown, the woman can't help but look back at the teenager. If she hadn't known what it was, she would have felt sorry for it.

And then, it was all gone.

There is a woman, sitting in bed next to her husband, reading a book.



Kaidyn A. '23

Do black lives matter? Do they? Or is it just a hashtag?

Do black lives matter?

What about black kings and queens left for dead? What about black kings and queens that have been bypassed and haven't been fed?

Should I be afraid to wear a hoodie like Trayvon Martin in town?
It frightens me just the thought of a generation that will never know.

That we will never know how long we've come and how long we've fought to persevere our history that will never be taught.

See black history is the shortest month of them all, but the focus isn't on us, it's on the wall.

So, go ahead...
Tell me more.

Do black lives matter?

If so, explain to me what happened to Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice.

You say black lives matter.
I say you never had a clue.



Torren C. '23

Do I trust easily? It doesn't take much for me not to think that you are not trustworthy. I might not show that I don't trust you, but I will fall back and not mess with you as hard as I used to. I usually trust people I have known for a while, but if I feel like you are a cool or chill person, I could hang with you, then I will put my trust in you. If you break it then I won't trust in you, but if you break it then I won't trust you anymore I might hang around you, but I will act differently. I have given you a lot of people my trust, and they have shown me their true colors, and I used to mess with them a lot. Depending on how much I messed up with you or what you did then I might hang around you, but I will act differently. Then I might consider giving you a second chance. There have been times where people have had multiple chances to prove themselves to me after doing me wrong, and they did it again, so I don't even associate with them at all so when they speak to me, I don't even speak back.



Caleb Martin '19

“Corner Store”

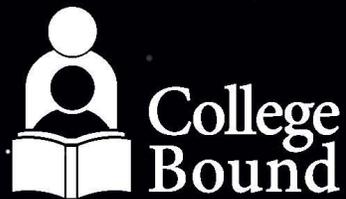
This t-shirt is from Caleb's 7/21 clothing line. Based on Matthew 7:21 (his middle name). Caleb's perspective is that anybody can say they want or hope for something but the people who are going to get it are the ones that work for it.

India G. '20 “Let's Be Honest about College.”

College is not worth it. It creates a huge and crushing debt that may take years to pay off. College puts many under stress due to the number of high-risk tests and essays that could foreshadow if they are up for the "College Life" or if they are going to graduate. So many people work hard for four years or more to end up with disappointment because they never were able to get the "promised" job or salary after graduating. The time and effort that is needed for college are exhausting. For some it is not even their dream; it is their parents dream for them to go to college. But people should attend college because learning is always worthwhile. Your mindset will evolve and be refreshed after the whole experience. You are forced to imagine, to consider new ideas, to meet new people you never thought you would meet before and socialize with them. You will learn to think outside the box, to ask further questions, and these are the reasons why college is worth it.



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