

101595

Dr. Chase

Senior Seminar

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Essay 2- Liberal Arts Education with My Calling

A Christian liberal arts education has played a huge role in shaping how I think, how I engage with the world, and how I see my vocation. It's not just about gaining knowledge, it's also about learning how to think differently, approach problems with a broader perspective, and integrate faith into every part of life. My time at Wheaton College has helped me appreciate both the strengths and challenges of a liberal arts education and how it has shaped my sense of calling.

One of the biggest benefits of a liberal arts education is how it changes the way I think. Every subject brings a new perspective, adding depth to my understanding of the world. One class that really challenged me was Dr. McKenzie's "Rise and Fall of American Slavery." Honestly, this isn't a class I would have picked on my own, but it ended up shifting how I approach history, the past, and how I view God and love others as God calls me to, even those who aren't here anymore. The lessons I learned in that class continue to shape the ways that I think everyday and contribute to my calling to be a communicative leader who creates better environments for others.

Even though I have seen many benefits to the Wheaton liberal arts education, there are some challenges that I have noticed as well. Sometimes, it feels like the curriculum assumes that every student is going to be deeply engaged with every subject. I've found myself wondering if there could be more flexibility, and more opportunities for students to tailor their education to

their specific calling while still maintaining the broad exposure that makes a liberal arts education valuable. The difficulty of the classes themselves hold Wheaton's academic standard high, but in return I feel that sometimes they shut down the joy's and curiosities of the subject. I think that if they were able to balance the difficulty better to tip towards less pressure on general education courses, many students would find more enjoyment and engagement with the subject at hand.

Even through the challenges, one of the coolest things about a Christian liberal arts education is how it integrates faith into every subject. It would be hard to have a truly Christian education without a liberal arts framework because limiting learning to just one subject could create a narrow view of the world. At Wheaton, I've been able to see how every field of study connects back to God. The professors here really believe in their subjects and in how they reveal something about God, and their passion has drawn me into a desire to want to learn more. Their enthusiasm makes me want to engage more deeply, knowing that every subject can be a way to learn more about God and change my daily life.

Looking back, I can see how my liberal arts education has shaped my understanding of vocation. I've always felt called to be a communicative leader who creates better environments for others, and the broad exposure of a liberal arts curriculum has helped me develop the skills to do that. In every class, no matter what it may be, it has given me new ways to think, communicate, and engage with people in meaningful ways. My calling isn't just about what job I have; it's about the way I live, the way I lead, and the way I interact with others which I believe I am more prepared to do because of the liberal arts education I've received at Wheaton.

At the end of the day, a Christian liberal arts education is about more than just academics. It's about learning how to live well—how to think deeply, serve faithfully, and be aware of how my choices impact others. It has helped shape both my mind and my character, preparing me not just for a career, but for a life of purpose, faithfulness, and continued learning far beyond when college is over. As I move forward, I know that the way I lead, communicate, and serve has been shaped by this education, and I'm grateful for the ways it has challenged and prepared me to step into my calling.