

The Importance of a Library

My love for libraries began as early as nine years old when my mother started talking to me about the library as she was hired to work as a librarian at the U.S. Embassy in Yaoundé Cameroon. Most often, she brings fictional, non-fictional and graphic novels which I really loved reading. She will always give a time frame to read the books because of the return policy in the library. This reading exercise began to affect my knowledge in a good way. I fell in love with books, which pushed me to visit the library and start making my own choice of books. I read many books with a devouring appetite. This passion for reading led to my very first spelling bee competition held in Genius Intelligence School still in Africa. I came in fourth place but it did not stop me from reading, thanks to the knowledge I gathered from the library buried in books. In fifth grade when I moved to the United State of America, I signed up for the spelling bee in my school as I explore the enormous wealth of information from my school library and the community library. My try placed me at the fourth position again but this time I was more confident with words as my vocabulary had grown. My friends saw my love for libraries and reading and encouraged me to join a competition for the battle of the books. I was challenged to read 30 books in two months and earned an award for winning the school competition. What a way to celebrate my adventure so far. This for sure made me read and visit the library more.

My passion for reading grew stronger and stronger as I look into my future career goals. Reading other subject was very easy especially chemistry and biology which are courses that I believe will lead me into my plans of becoming a pharmacist.

Besides going to school, going to the library has become an important hub in my educational life. Being in the library helps me focus and read because it is so quiet and peaceful. The library is important to me because it provides many reference materials such as encyclopedias and other references that aren't available in electronic format. The library also helps me access non-circulating materials that help me complete school projects. Not only is the library important to me but also to my classmates and reading buddies. The library provides for my classmates, reading mates and myself a central place that is not considered our homes but a place where we can study and share knowledge. The library also provides a quiet environment where we can co-operate without disturbing anyone. Above all information gathered from the reading in the library would certainly make me become a better and informed citizen, ready to participate in my school, society and the world at large.

The library occupies a very important place in school. With its books suited to the interests and aptitude of students of different age group, with its magazines, periodicals, newspapers and with its calm and tranquil atmosphere it has a special call to the students who go there and quench their thirst for reading. Information that cannot be found all in classrooms are resting on the shelves in the library. Here they find an environment which is conducive to the building up of habit of self-learning. The library is the center of the intellectual and social activities of the school as it has very wholesome effect over the work of school. Habit of reading can be cultivated, when students get practice in reading and reading habit in the beginning are made firm when students get the material to read which interests them and occupies their attention. I am proud to attend several programs organized by my school and community Library

where I learn other skills that share ideas with others. In the classroom the books that are prescribed may not serve the purpose, some students may not be in a position to purchase all books that they want to read, while others may not find books that are of interest to them. Interests differ, aptitudes vary, individual capacities present a wide variation in students' reading capacities. In the library, everyone has what he wants, goes at the speed to which his capabilities allow him to go. The school library is thus, a common platform upon which all students meet on a common level with equal opportunities. It is the nucleus of the school environment, the center of the intellectual activities of the school. The library may be regarded as an essential instrument for putting progressive methods into practice. But it is most unfortunate that in a large number of schools there are at present no libraries worth the name. The books are usually old, outdated, unsuitable, usually selected without reference to the students' tastes and interests.

North Carolina has always been friendly to scholars and knowledge-seekers in general. Knowledge is spread across the state as it boasts over eighty public libraries. Probably the most famous in the state is the State Library of North Carolina located at City of Raleigh serving as the main depository for North Carolina State publication. The library has been a key institution in serving government employees the access to information resources that are important to public decision-making and economic development. Therefore, if we were to lose our libraries, North Carolina will certainly lose many students. I love my community library and the great work the librarians do there in helping to situate readers like me with the right books to read.