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The Importance of Libraries

Samantha Houston

Collin College, shouston4@cougarmail.collin.edu

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The Importance of Libraries

There was a familiar fixture at the library closest to my hometown. School hours and holidays excepted, there tended to be a redhead sitting in the corner, head and shoulders bent low over the table, possibly scrawling fiction as fast as her hands would let her in a well-worn notebook, or reading a new book she'd found somewhere in the familiar shelves. That fixture, of course, was me. I was raised in chaos; I lived in a disorganized house with a father who drank too much and yelled too loud, and a mother that didn't know how to stop it. My brothers and my mother let the anger roll off their backs, but every biting word emptied my chest in anxious desperation and I craved a corner of my own separated from the whirlwind that was my family. My refuge, my escape, was the library. Quiet and cool, I could sit with my headphones in and read or write without fearing distraction. Through childhood and adolescence, the library was the only place that I could reliably go to escape the pressures of home life. Libraries made me the student I am today, the dreamer. Without access to the sanctuary I held so dear, I don't know if I'd be as successful as I am now.

Great people are made in libraries. Those that have done the most good in the world have done so through not only their voracious desire to read, but also the access to books that many Americans take for granted as a result of libraries. There's a reason American President's name a library after their tenure. Libraries are representative of the best things about America, a public service that provides opportunity to all that shall ask for it. Anyone, poor or rich, young or old can appreciate the worlds of knowledge stored within a library. Libraries saved my life

when I was younger, and I know I'm not alone in that. Books and libraries have influenced most great people in history, and to discount the importance of them would be a grave mistake for our country.