*What is your expected major?* As I complete college and scholarship applications, how am I supposed to choose just one from the daunting list of options? Which one will provide me with the best foundation to pursue a career in public service, possibly as a lobbyist?

I am still in high school and am so excited about the next chapter in my life while attending college, but where should I go? What *is* a liberal arts school? I honestly didn’t know that this was something that I really needed to consider. Where was my counselor when I needed help?

Many students just like me, are unclear about liberal arts and how pursuing a liberal arts degree instead of a political science major, might really be beneficial for my future. As I think of what I want to achieve as an adult, there are several paths I can take to reach my final destination. Most colleges and universities have a liberal arts program which offers a wide range of degrees. A college of liberal arts and sciences offers so many different options that can prepare me for any career that I choose to pursue. As I read the lists of courses available in a liberal arts program, I see how each course directly relates to each of the 13 Principles of Democracy.

Instead of pursuing a degree solely in political science or psychology, I should be considering a variety of areas to study. I want to fully immerse myself in my educational experiences and not be pigeon-holed into one area of expertise. I want to be a well-rounded individual with a broad base of knowledge.

As a college student and/or graduate with a globally-designed education, I will be better prepared to understand and accept the principles of democracy throughout my life. As an educated individual, I can adhere to the basic principles which must exist in order to have and live in a democratic society. I will be able to share, discuss and perhaps teach others, about the relationship between liberal arts and democratic principles. Through my involvement and participation in leadership and political activities, I, too, can be a partner in building a better democracy.

As I read the 13 Principles of Democracy, I envision my role within the confines of the language outlined by our founding fathers hundreds of years ago. I am not sure what political party I will be aligned with, but I am sure that as a citizen of the United States of America, I must be adequately educated and prepared to move forward, as a believer and leader in our democratic society. As I begin my studies at a liberal arty college or university, I will have taken the next step from the foundation I build when I started my political career in middle and high school in Moses Lake, Washington.