WaCLA Scholarship Essay  
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Historically, the humanities have been the root of education because it has been qualified as necessary for developing competent and capable democratic citizens. Through a liberal arts education this development can be achieved. An individual’s main purpose is the development of their intellect and thought process; to become knowledgeable and to think critically. For example, you may know what a hammer does, which, simply put, is a device used to “hammer” down nails into another object. But do you know the purpose? Therefore do you really fully understand what a hammer is past the notion of hitting nails? A person pursuing a liberal arts education educates the soul as well as the mind. It teaches a person *how* to think and not necessarily *what* to think and enlightens them with a sense of morality. Within a liberal arts education, there are principles that are instilled and necessary for a free society such as justice, frugality and industry (the ethics of hard working). Upon these values and principles is what a democratic society should be built and maintained. Having knowledge and understanding of such world views and how to think is just as important, if not more, than a trade school that simply teaches that a hammer pounds nails. The more people are educated in the liberal arts, then those values begin to permeate into the society we know today and start to build a democracy centered around comprehensible thinkers. As students pursing to become leaders of the next generation, it is our task to lead by example with the values instilled by the process involved in our liberal arts education. It is then our responsibility to be virtuous and role models to nurture a democratic society.