



# Educational Tours

Brooke H.  
Amherst County High School  
Amherst, VA

Global Citizen winning essay

[eftours.com/globalcitizen](http://eftours.com/globalcitizen)

Our “reality” in America is based upon our perception. We are an ethnocentric society and we truly believe we are superior, but perhaps we are the ones that lag behind. Our educational levels fall behind institutes in other countries such as China, Japan, or India. Education is not the center of the majority of American teens’ lives, but I think differently. I take pride in my educational opportunities. As Dave Ramsey, a financial guru, says, “If you live like no one else, later you can live like no one else.” I firmly believe in taking every educational opportunity and advantage that I can attain. If I put forth all my effort into learning, later I can live like the few Americans that did the same, and succeed. I have about two million minutes within my high school career to do all that I can do, and be all that I can be, and I must persist every moment. Fourteen thousand minutes in China could enable me to further my opportunities. Cultural exchange could help me pursue a satisfying career, open my eyes to a world my mind knows nothing of, and equip me with the tools necessary.

My life’s dream has been to work in the health profession and to specialize as a pediatrician. I believe that one of the best ways to help people to understand what drives them. I want to see what their inner-being is made of, where they come from, and what makes them uniquely individual. Cultural diversity is part of American’s daily lives, but I want to take it a step further and explore the roots in which these cultures originated. The brief encounters I have had with other cultures I find in my community prompts me to search for these civilizations. I feel that, I could better fulfill a career in the health field if I were more aware of the cultural interactions. Health programs and participants could excel further if they did have an experience within other cultures. Health discoveries might even advance further if we could use methods from all around the world. This event has occurred in history. Army colonel Dr. William C. Gorgas stopped the deaths of thousands of workers of the Panama Canal from malaria with a technique he gathered from another culture. Gorgas had picked up these lessons from Cuba earlier and during the construction of the canal, he helped control malaria by 1913. His experience with other cultures saved thousands of lives, and I hope one day my experience with other cultures will benefit my career.

America needs that slap in the face to open its eyes to the other cultures around her. Much can be



*Educational  
Tours*

Brooke H.  
Amherst County High School  
Amherst, VA

Global Citizen winning essay

[eftours.com/globalcitizen](http://eftours.com/globalcitizen)

learned when brains are put together for work. If I were given the opportunity to spend my 14,000 minutes among the vast lands of China, my eyes could be opened to a world completely different from my own. This could be my opportunity of a life time. I have no clue what awaits me out there, because America is removed from the world around her. America's narcissistic view of the self, shelters her from what is happening around her. America as a whole has lost much of her competitiveness; as a student I may not be aware of this loss on a day to day basis. If fortunate enough to go to China, my precious moments would be spent breathing in the atmosphere, taking in all that I can, and removing the limitations of my closed mind caused by years of a cloaked mind.

Last but not least, this exploration could enhance skills for the future. A finer communication could be established as cultures cross. I want to strive forward for an improved and consistent communication across cultures. Much can be learned when we come together. Leadership in my life could improve by bounds. If my mind becomes open and acceptable to ideas that I am not used to, then I could handle and advise situations in a better manner. I could be leader and be confident in who I am, with a better knowledge of other societies. Further more, my critical thinking would improve. The more knowledge I have, book or common sense wise, the better my ability to make educational choices. Cultural exploration could promote basic skills that are a necessity to become the person I am destined to be.

What can I do with 14,000 minutes in China? My life, my destiny, and my future could be altered. Necessary skills could be made, scales could be removed from my eyes, allowing me new-found respect towards other cultures, and I could grow as a person. Thank you for this opportunity for an educational advantage.