



As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, cross-cultural exchange becomes more important than ever before. How could spending 14,000 minutes of your life on a tour to China equip you with superior communication, leadership and critical thinking skills? What future opportunities could become available to you as a result?

Spending 14,000 minutes of my life on a tour to China would improve my communication, leadership, and critical thinking skills. This tour would give me a great opportunity to see how the education system in China works, to interact or communicate with Chinese people, and to be able to see their hospitals, cultures and the economy in China.

China and India have one of the highest education systems in the world, even though they don't have as much supplies and space as the United States. They always seem to work hard and they are encouraged when it comes to education and technology, compared to us in the United States. I want to be able to go and explore the schools, the education system, the class rooms and how the students communicate with the teachers and learn about their daily rules in schools. This will be a good opportunity to improve my leadership, and communication among other students as well.

I have come from far away, from one of the poorest countries in the world, Afghanistan. We were some of the lucky people who survived the war in Afghanistan, and ran away from the Taliban and made it through to Pakistan. I was in Pakistan my whole life. Luckily we got a chance to come to the United States as refugees. I came to the United States in 2004 with my family. We were all excited and happy to get out of the wars and fighting in Pakistan and Afghanistan and have a good life in United States, and get a good education. But yet, it was one of the most difficult times in my life, especially for my parents. We came here with nothing and we started from the beginning. It was hard for us to go to places and communicate with people outside the house. No one else in my family spoke English except my father. Everything was new for us, the people, the culture, the religion, the schools and the environment.

At the beginning I had difficulty at my school understanding the teachers, the students and the teaching systems here. I would always stay after school and get help from my teachers. I pushed and pushed myself to do as best as I can in school because education means a lot to me and my family. In

Afghanistan I was one of the top students in my class.

Through living in three different countries, I have already had to work on my communication, critical thinking, and leadership skills. The trip in China would improve these skills even more. I also want to learn more about China. In particular, I want to learn about education systems, culture, and health-care.

Here in America it was amazing for us to see the huge schools and the amount of students in every school, and the huge cafeterias in schools. In Afghanistan and the schools were way too small and they had a huge amount of students in each class. We had no cafeteria and we had about fifteen minutes break. For break we had snacks and we had to pay for it as well. In the United States I love the fact that we don't have to pay for high school and teachers are always available for help after school. In Afghanistan, I had to pay one hundred dollars each month for my school. They didn't have a good education system at all.

For me it's kind of surprising to see how the students in other countries like Afghanistan, Indian, China, Pakistan all those middle eastern/Asian countries, the students are willing to do anything to have the opportunity to go to school and have a good education. They always seem to be competing against each other, even when they don't have many things provided for them and don't have many chances. I know how the education systems are in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the US. Now I want to know about the education system in China as well. I also know how teenagers are in Afghanistan and in Pakistan and now I want to know about the teenagers in China and India as well.

It is really important to know about other Cultures and Religions that exist in this world, beside your own Culture and Religion. I want to be able to know the Chinese culture and religion as well, because their culture and religion are quite different. I have an interest in their culture and religions. Culture and religion also have a connection with the education in many ways. For example teenagers or adults in China don't have as much freedom or opportunity as the people in United States. That might make them want to have the potential and concentrate more on their education.



*Educational
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This trip to China would help me reach my goals. One of my goals is to open a school or a hospital in a poor country some day to help out the people survive, and help them get an education. I am also interested in the health field. Here at Somerville High School I am in a Health Careers program. The program prepares us for jobs in the medical field. If possible, I want to be able to see the hospitals in China and how the health system works in there, and what supplies and equipment they use. I want to know what are the requirement classes that they have to take in schools and colleges in for people who want to major in the medical field, and how many years it takes them. I really love and enjoy helping people much as I can, especially the ones who have difficulty with their lives. I also want to be able to help all the children with their education. Helping other people makes me feel good about myself.

In conclusion, I really, really want this trip to China. It would be a really cool experience in my life and would always remain with me. I already had a very good experience from Afghanistan and Pakistan where I grew up. I have never gone anywhere far away besides Pakistan. This tour would also give me an opportunity to think more about what I want to do with my future, if I want to do something that has to do with traveling. I really want to see the life experiences in other countries and some day open a hospital or a school to give teenagers the opportunity for their education as well.