

Sophomore Scholarship Winner

Adrian Graham



Major:	Secondary Education
Hometown:	Cheyenne, Wyoming
Goal after College	to become a teacher who is able to adequately provide for a minority child's education and doesn't make them feel ostracized for being raised in a different environment

Excerpt from Essay

As a first-generation, African American student, I would like to become an educator, and provide students at the high school level the chance to express themselves, and make sure they feel accommodated. As someone who once felt very uncomfortable sharing things about my background in class, I'm glad I have reached college. Because of my good educators, I don't feel embarrassed to work on a project about Malcolm X's strategy of black nationalism. In fact, my college instructor provided a blueprint for research, and I used it as a jumping off point to see other tactics revolutionaries used during the Civil Rights Movement. If it weren't for my educators in college allow-

ing more freedom, and willingness to accept non-traditional research projects, then I would be missing out on opportunities for education relevant to my life.

It's not just the classroom that gives me the opportunity to learn about these things. During my time on the University of Wyoming's debate team, I've been given the chance to do even more research into my community. This year we've been discussing issues of antitrust, which over the course of the year, has made me more knowledgeable on topics like inequality gaps between the rich and poor and how monopolization has structurally put minorities in an economically disad-

vantaged state within our country over the last century. Even within the debate space there are inequalities I've become more cognizant about. Some schools lack resources to participate in the activity as competitively as others, either because they lack funds, or proper coaches. These put teams at a structural disadvantage in an activity grounded in mass amounts of research. Not only has debate provided me a home in which thoughts and ideas can be exchanged freely, but it's also provided a place where I can do research of my own accord and come to my own conclusions about the world.