

Annastasia Sherman

Essay
“Who Am I”

It has been with excitement and nervousness that I finish up my last few weeks at River Ridge High School. A dorm room at Whitworth College awaits my arrival this upcoming fall semester, and I eagerly anticipate the new days ahead of me. As I prepare myself for a new life away from home truly for the first time, I begin reflecting on what I would like to accomplish, which requires the answer of this question: Who am I?

I was born with the ancient traditions of the Korean culture, as well as of the Irish, Polish, English, Scottish, and German people. Raised in a Christian household, my childhood was spent in several different states, as well as overseas, because my father was in the Army. In the process, I was able to embrace a variety of people, customs, and ideas. Currently, my younger sister and I attend a high school with an ethnic diversity so complex, it is close to achieving a minority majority. This environment has helped me to better appreciate the unique communities of global societies. I love people, and to make another person smile and laugh is a mission I enjoy to the full. Giving candy to my sister when she is in a bad mood, making someone at school a special card to cheer them up, planning events that will make my parents laugh...I enjoy doing the little things, the

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things that few know about, that brighten other people’s days. I am sympathetic and empathetic to others’ emotions and situations. I feel and care very deeply for God’s creation, which I consider an ability that will serve me well later in life.

An additional aspect of who I am is exemplified in playing the piano. That in itself requires patience and determination, because mastery of a song entails constant practice, initiative, and self-motivation. However, I believe my gift takes place not when I am playing, but when I am teaching songs to my sister, who is 16 years old. To teach someone a piano song who only knows how to read a few of the notes is a very challenging task. Of course, it is very fun and extremely satisfying, but it involves tolerance, patience, dogged persistence, and hope. These qualities also exhibit themselves in other parts of my life: completing school assignments, finding solutions to personal problems, working in a church ministry team, and just getting through each new day that I wake up to. I believe these traits can also be utilized to a great extent during my life at Whitworth College, where I will have to transition from my old life at home to a new one in the world.

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Another critical part of who I am is my love for children. I've spent time babysitting and teaching them for several years now, in both church and home settings. Just thinking of a giggling child brightens up my day. Children are so curious, naïve, candid, and surprising. There is never a dull moment with them. In fact, I have learned a great deal from my experiences with them. For example, I've learned to explore each new day with a child-like and reckless abandon; and to sacrifice my time and energy to help others, which, eventually, glorifies God. And yet, children are like little eggs, fragile, despite the energy with which they hurl themselves at the world. Little eggs bursting with potential for a wonderful life. To be able to raise and nurture such amazing creatures into men and women of God is certainly one of my greatest desires.

Being a mother is not the only goal I have in life. I'd like to study a wide range of courses at Whitworth College, such as psychology, sociology, education, religion, and art. I am not sure what specifically God has planned for my life, but in the meantime, I would like to go to a four-year post-high school institution where the nascent mother inside me will have time, space, and proper care to be able to grow into a mature woman who can compassionately and confidently pave

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her way around this earthly place. I want to learn, to meet other people, to discover ideas adverse to my own. I know that at college, I will gain knowledge and insight into the world around me. I will learn about relationships and connections, explore new ideas, and be compelled to think and perceive the world in a totally different way. I seek a new kind of freedom that will allow me to unleash the passion within me to bolder heights!

Despite all that has happened in my life and all the goals I wish to accomplish, I am still only seventeen. A child, really, at heart. But a maturing youth who is beginning to realize that life is so much more than books and grades. It is more than crushes and grudges. It is more than knowing right and wrong. There is purpose. And I aim to find it. And in order to discover my purpose in life, I must gain a deeper understanding of who I really am: an accumulation of all the experiences, qualities, talents, and dreams that have been crafted by God's hands.