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Upon walking into the local library, I am always greeted with a storm of old memories and good feelings. As a child, I was brought up in a home that values independent reading, something that I feel greatly influenced my early education. As a homeschooler during elementary school, library visits were always greatly anticipated, creating an enthusiasm for reading and libraries that has carried through to my teenage years. Not only did my brother and I go to check out books, we attended story time when we were toddlers, which could contribute to my positive feeling towards libraries. Without a ready supply of books and a passionate love for reading, I doubt I'd be the same person I am today.

To me, libraries are important because they provide a constant stream of something I love: books. Besides that, they were a large foundation of my knowledge and education, sculpting my learning and personality from a young age. Contrary to many peers at school, I consider books to be a valid entertainment choice in an age of instant gratification. Luckily, there are still a few like me that view libraries as an invaluable source of knowledge and fun.

Libraries helped me develop a love and passion for reading when I was younger, a trait I consider to be vital to learning and growing intellectually. Without them, I fear I would have succumbed to the masses of kids that are content to waste their days away staring at a screen. As a result, I am more than happy to grab a book and become lost in a fantasy world for hours on end. Because of this, I grew to appreciate literature and started loving writing as a young child. In addition, I volunteered twice a week in our library's children's department.

Through the work, I was able to develop an appreciation for the inner workings of the library and what it does for people besides just providing books.

In my eyes, libraries are incredibly important to educate the future leaders of North Carolina. As a child of a librarian, I have a firm belief that a love of reading at an early age can permanently leave a child with an appreciation for learning, which is a valuable trait for someone to be successful. With future leaders being taught this love for learning through the libraries, the sky is the limit for the state.

In my fifteen years of life, the library has been an important part of my childhood and development. When entering the local branch, I always feel like I'm truly at my home away from home. I credit much of my education and mental acuteness to a love of reading built in part by strong involvement with the local library. Libraries have, and always will hold a special place in my heart for everything they've done for me thus far in my life.