

How the Library Changed My Life

“How has the library had an impact on my personal and academic life?” This is a tough question for me to answer, as there are simply so many reasons why the library has changed my life. Many middle and high school students have the usual routine of going to school, then coming home to work on homework, play sports, watch a movie, or go out with friends. However, I am not like those students at all. Not only has the library provided me with a great place to work academically, but it has also given me the opportunity to meet some of the people who have helped me become the person I am today.

I started coming to the library in the 2nd grade, simply as a place to do some homework and socialize with friends after the school day. Little did I know that the library would change my life for the better. I immediately felt a connection to the library and its staff. I would start coming to the library every day, where I would continue to use its resources to help me academically, such as the free computers to help me complete my homework. I was also able to come to the library to receive help from teen volunteers during the “homework help” program, which was a great resource when I was struggling with a subject.

In the summer leading into high school, I was able to start volunteering for the library, and I was so excited. Throughout my over 580 hours of volunteering, I was able to learn so many life skills, from interacting with the public to planning and helping run programs. Along with gaining these skills, I had formed a bond with the staff, especially in Youth and Teen Services, that I am forever grateful for. These staff members had also helped teach me important life skills, but also helped me with personal and self-development skills, such as encouraging and helping me apply for the Early College program I am in, and preparing me for my first job interview.

Overall, I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for the Safety Harbor Public Library and its staff. I will be forever grateful for LeAnna, Autumn, Lisa, Anastasia, and all the other staff members, past and present, who have watched me grow up and helped shape me into who I am now. If it wasn't for the library, I have no idea what my life would be like today.