

Mono Lake Committee Scholarship Essay

As I sit down next to the shore of Mono Lake I suddenly become aware of the silence. All I can hear is the soft background rhythm of waves lapping on the shore. The sun is just beginning to set, and in the distance I can see the white veins of melting snow coming down the mountains. There is a small breeze that is not abrasive, but instead melts the air into the perfect temperature all around me. As I look around the giant tufas towers remind me of ancient castles that have been on this Earth long before I have.

I think back to how incredibly stressed I was before I walked down the path to Mono Lake. It seems that all I have been able to think about for the past week is how to take calculus antiderivatives and remembering the order of the presidents for my upcoming AP exams. Yet as I sit at the lakes edge I remember to take a deep breath and I feel as though a weight is lifted from my shoulders. I begin to realize that I should not see this experience as one more thing that I must check off my to do list, but instead see it as a blessing. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the struggles of life that we often forget to appreciate the things that are truly important.

Places like Mono Lake matter because they are a silent reminder of the beauty and wonder that the world gives us every day. All humans are guilty of forgetting that we are such a small component of this planet, and the reality is that no matter how much we worry about our own internal struggles inevitably everything will be fine. Finding my way back to nature gives me a sense of calm and serenity after weeks of stress and worry, and I truly hope that all people can find this happiness in their times of hardship.

The same way that places like Mono Lake bring balance to people souls, they also bring balance to the ecosystem of our planet. Since the beginning of human history more and more wilderness has been developed for human needs. Though there is nothing wrong with human advancement, it is still incredibly important to see that we must continue and maintain a balance between nature and development. Everything on our planet is connected and we all rely on each other in order to thrive. The day that natural places like Mono Lake cease to exist is a day of failure for all of mankind.

Though I only spent a short amount of time at the shore of Mono Lake it is clear to me that places like this matter because they bring joy to people's souls and they are the glue that holds our planet together. I am sure that if more people took a small moment to enjoy places like Mono Lake they would feel the same way.