

Cramming the night before exams is a usual ritual for me. Often, I find myself pondering, “What even is the point of studying if the information won’t be relevant after the upcoming test?” For instance, the Pythagorean theorem - a concept I have never used outside of my mathematics classes. I doubt my mother has used it in the past three decades. Considering that I have zero aspirations of becoming a mathematician, I ask myself: do I truly need to invest time in studying mathematics? Well, after devoting countless hours to this contemplation, I’ve come up with a number of reflections.

As Umeko Tsuda stated in her speech, education not only imparts knowledge but also instills in us the yearning and ability to acquire knowledge. This ultimately allows us to broaden our interests, leading to further contribution to society, but also unlocking a myriad of opportunities for us.

My childhood has been far from conventional - I’ve had the privilege of attending schools in six diverse countries: France, the United Kingdom, Japan, India, and the Philippines. The global exposure has shaped me into an unconventional seventeen-year-old Japanese girl with countless hobbies and passions, guided by an open and accepting perspective.

My purpose in studying is to accumulate knowledge that will enable me to pursue my passions. One of my foremost interests lies in researching the production process of biopharmaceuticals, particularly for those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This is why I engage in the studies of mathematics, chemistry, and biology – to gain a deeper understanding of biochemistry and data analysis. My pursuit of English and French education is driven by my aspiration to travel the globe and to offer my assistance to people from all over the world. My native tongue, Japanese, is also important to me, as it empowers me to spread Japanese culture wherever I go. Additionally, the study of economics furnished me with a framework to comprehend the intricacies of individual and societal functions.

Keeping up the dedication in my studies has also facilitated connections with individuals who share my passions. By enrolling in higher-level classes such as chemistry and mathematics for the International Baccalaureate (IB), I’ve had the privilege of forming friendships with many peers who share my fascination with the medical field. Beyond academics, my involvement in the school’s jazz band - where I play the trumpet - has introduced me to friends across different grade levels, enhancing my appreciation of music through their diverse insights.

In summary, studying yields numerous advantages: it expands our interests, allowing us to explore various subjects; it equips us with knowledge for the future; and it affords us the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals. Through education, we not only gain understanding but also create the pathway for personal growth, societal contribution, and a network of meaningful relationships.