

# Community



Community I have grown up in a household where the dining table served as a place for affectionate conversations for all in the family. I grew up witnessing the immense effect such conversations had in building up and sustaining human relationships. Misunderstandings were cleared over a cup of coffee, daily worries and painful experiences were alleviated with the help of mutual consolation as the food served its own soothing purpose, and happiness was shared in a meaningful manner with generous extra helpings. I realized how this four-legged furniture could facilitate ample foot and elbow support for the quality time needed to build mutual understanding and respect among people, through meaningful communication.

My school days instigated in me the belief that effective conversation among one's peers and teachers make a great difference in academic pursuits. As I participated in some sports, literary and arts activities, I gained the confidence to face new people and to carry out good conversations with them. Moreover, the debating opportunities provided for students in all streams of study turned out to be the best part of my intellectual development as an adult. I made good use of this opportunity and learned the subtle nuances associated with casual and formal debates. I gained the necessary skills of effective communication through this. The debates were always conducted in the conference hall, and the participants sat around a long table. This provided mutual visibility and audibility. Though these were formal debates, the basic rules regarding respect for other speakers and the ways in which ideas can be expressed effectively in the minimum time were part of my precious learning experience.

I made use of the opportunity to meet and talk with my peers in a casual manner in the canteen or the school campus. Such informal meetings were

in the beginning a means of getting acquainted with other students but it later developed into friendly get-togethers meant for meaningful communication on any topic under the sun. We had both serious and light-hearted discussions on academics, excursions, week-end plans, extra reading, movies, music and romance. This had in fact served the crucial role of helping us build effective communication and interpersonal skills and preparing us for the demands of a socio-cultural existence. It has to be noted that these casual meetings were also aided by tables, be it in the canteen, class rooms, or the meeting places in the campus.

I am seeking admission for Biology Major at the School of Arts and Science in the University of Chicago. My ambition is to become a dentist and pursue my career along with missionary work. I am glad to hear about the seminar-based learning system of the university. As I have clearly defined my career plans, I had taken care from my school days itself to make use of discussions and debates around a table, on topics that appeal to me and are useful at the same time. I intend to make the most of the situation offered at the University of Chicago to build my abilities to learn my subjects effectively and to learn, develop and maintain good communication and interpersonal skills. I am truly impressed with the prospect of carrying out debates and seminars in the classes and outside them, with my peers and teachers. If selected for the course, I promise to rise up to your expectations of learning through self-development and community living, with the help of the tables that would facilitate this.