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Liberal Arts Essay Contest  
4/27/2016

### Immigration Through a Multifaceted Lens

By the end of this school year, I'll have lived overseas for 264 days. During this time, the issue that's infiltrated each community I've been a part of is immigration. From experience and education, I've gained insight to the negative and positive aspects, qualifying me to build an informed opinion.

In Europe, there's a current influx of refugees fleeing the Middle East. As an international student, I've had the chance to witness this immigration from many viewpoints: as a student who's been raised in a U.S. society, as an international student that's seen firsthand the waves of refugees entering Europe, and as a young female who's witnessed vulnerability. Overall, I've had the opportunity to see immigration through a multifaceted lens.

During my first month abroad I reported to the immigration office in Dublin to apply for my residency card. I arrived at the office at 5:30am, and the line of residency candidates was already wrapped around the block; I waited 10 hours to get my residency card. Weeks later I received an email specifying that the long delays were due to the flood of refugees from the Middle East. This event illustrates the massive amounts of immigrants inundating cities that may or may not be equipped to handle such populations, and it becomes clear why liberal immigration policies could be nerve-racking for citizens who fear the potential negative consequences. Before this encounter in Dublin, the influx of refugees in Europe was nothing but a news story to my American perspective, but it immediately became relevant to my reality. It was during this time I began to grasp the global magnitude of the issue of immigration.

Between my semesters abroad, my dad brought to my attention an article entailing massive assaults that took place in Germany on New Year's. Witnesses claimed that these were carried out by crowds of North African men. This time, my reaction to "just another news story" was different; because of my experience in

Dublin and my newly heightened awareness, I was forced to consider what sort of position I would be in when I returned to Europe. In light of my new sensitivity, I was forced to reflect again on how immigration could be handled, versus my previous assumptions. My initial thoughts before my experience abroad, was that there is no harm in accepting people who were leaving behind cities unfit to cultivate a thriving lifestyle, however, I now had to reconsider the potential consequences of lenient immigration.

Despite my experiences I'm not convinced that immigration should be prohibited by any means, and I credit my holistic education for this viewpoint. Psychology has taught me the neurological human tendency to create schemas of the world, and Abrahamic studies has illuminated the vast amount of misconceptions surrounding the Middle East and their religious beliefs. It's armed with a combination of experiences and knowledge that I can conclude that denying refugees immigration will incite discrimination and negative stereotyping and set a precedent for generations to come.