

Let's drop the debate between STEM and Liberal Arts. I've read about it, I've heard the arguments, and the results sway no one; those who pursue STEM will side with STEM, and those who prefer liberal arts will choose the liberal arts. The problem is not the personal choice –individual preferences should always be supported – the problem is the nature of the debate. It creates an underlying presumption that a scholar must choose one in place of the other. This notion is ridiculous. I lend my voice not to persuade either side, but to encourage STEM majors to explore both curriculums; to see how they can universally support each other. STEM and the liberal arts are not opposites; they are compliments. We need to study them together in order to make sure that scientific development moves in cooperation with humanitarian reasoning.

I love math, it will be my major. My passion is not just the crunching of numbers, but the symmetry within the equations. This symmetry reveals many complex and thrilling stories. The stories of the universe, of human evolution, and even of nuclear genocide are all possible only because math explains the science. But whereas STEM principles may provide the skeletal foundation for each story, it is the liberal arts that help provide the heart and soul. The inclusion of a humanitarian perspective is extremely important, especially in our globally destructive and theologically unstable world. Whether we consider the scientific advancement of nuclear technology, or the genetic modifying of viruses and DNA strands, we must keep an eye on the humanities to balance our abilities with our intent. The idea that scientific advancement is always self-justified is no longer true. The motivation behind our lives requires an understanding that goes beyond mere scientific principle. We need to equally pursue acceptance, reason, and temperance; and we need to view these pursuits in concert with how other cultures will receive, tolerate and even build upon our discoveries. We can no longer just rely on outside entities and agencies to hold the reigns of concern and mitigate the possible destruction. We

must incorporate a better balance into our own methodology. This cannot come from raw science alone, and it will never come if we continue to perceive STEM and the liberal arts as opposite sides of a spectrum. Adding liberal arts to a STEM curriculum simply moves science to a higher dimension. Anything less is not full discovery, and it may ultimately create more problems than cures.

It is easy for high school students to look at the two fields and prefer one at the exclusion of the other. I initially saw myself studying mathematics and avoiding all humanitarian and cultural based studies. But we must grow as students and establish a broader education that incorporates the global complexities of our human nature.. Without a greater incorporation of the liberal arts, we will never recognize the humanitarian concepts that we are missing. To any scientific scholar, this should be unacceptable.