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斯沃斯莫尔是全美最顶尖的文理学院之一，而且生源水平是决定因素，2008 年，《美国新闻与世

界报道》评价斯沃斯莫尔为美国第三好的文理学院。

 **The Essay Sample:Apply for Swarthmore College**

When I was little, my favorite thing to do was jumping over walls. It didn’t matter what lay beyond those cracked bricks, it was just the barrier itself I wanted to conquer. On many an occasion, I found myself being escorted from the premises by bemused security guards, trying unsuccessfully to hide my sheepish grin. It’s not as if I was some sort of juvenile delinquent. It’s just that I live in China, a country teeming with walls, from the Great Wall which snakes through half of the country to the wall around my school.

As I grew older, I began to realize that there are other kinds of walls present in my life. The Great Firewall of China blocks Wikipedia.org. Local newspapers are censored over and over again before publication. Some government-sponsored exhibitions forbid the public from entering. These walls are usually invisible, but the inconvenience and disinformation are apparent. To break these types of barriers for the common good has therefore always been my ambition, and Swarthmore is the place that will teach me how to achieve my goals. Although I first heard about Swarthmore three years ago from my friend who studied there, it wasn’t until my experience in Daxi village that I realized how suitable Swarthmore and I are to each other, both academically and socially.

In the summer of 2006, I spent three weeks volunteering in Daxi village, whose primary economic source was the sale of tobacco crops. I had always thought that the tobacco industry was a lucrative business, so why were these farmers living in such terrible poverty and insularity? One villager I worked with told me that it was because Hongta Tobacco Corporation has a monopoly over the provincial tobacco market, which depresses the price at the local level. As a result, the villagers do not get fair market value for their product. Phenomena such as this occur throughout China, and are major contributors to the socioeconomic inequality between the cities and the suburbs. I had always wanted to become a businessman, because commerce is a way to bring about change. But it wasn’t until I stumbled upon this particular economic pattern, in which business is causing part of the problem, that I realized it requires more than just business skills to resolve these types of situations.

During my college search, I looked at Swarthmore’s website and read the blogs there. I saw students who were doing the kinds of things I was doing.Either by volunteering through the Summer Social Action Award or by working on poverty projects in the town of Chester,Swarthmore students are testing ideas and looking for new ways to change the world for the better. A liberal school, Swarthmore has not only a more flexible education system than those of other schools, but also the mission of service learning. There, I will be able to take classes in any field I’m interested in and I can even design my own major if it can help me become a better problem-solver. More importantly, I will be surrounded by people who are interested in a variety of subjects, but who share the same goal of having a positive impact to society. Participating in the Honors Program, my voice will be heard by peers and faculty alike, and the exchange of ideas will empower me with new points of view. In projects for the Sam Hayes Research Grant, I can research monopolies and their effect on the economy and society in China, building bridges between the social classes. Volunteering through the Summer Social Action Award, not only will I connect academic learning with social service,but also learn the nuts and bolts of effective social activism.

Although I have grown up to a young man who is not interested in jumping over the physical walls anymore, overcoming the barriers in the politics, economy and the society is still tempting me. In ten years, I hope to be both an entrepreneur and a social activist. But wherever I am, I will be spreading the spirit “that is so Swarthmore”.