

# Teen Essay 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

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If you want to learn all about Anacortes, Washington's history, the first place you would go is the Anacortes museum. Near the present day library, you would climb up the steep stairs, into the building ready to be educated by their exhibit's, or you may go to their website to seek enlightenment by the words present on the screen. But did you know that even before this building spread word of history, it was a great history mark for its own town. It used to be the Carnegie library.

This was one of the 2,500 libraries built in the US funded by the Scottish man Andrew Carnegie. The city of Anacortes pledged \$1,000 dollars and an additional \$1,000 dollars a month for upkeep of the library so Mr. Carnegie granted the city \$10,000 dollars. The town wanted this library and everything it symbolized, that steep elevated staircase featured in all of the Carnegie Libraries represents the "elevation of learning". They must have known how knowledge is truly power, that the best way to grow is by growing the mind. They must have supported this quote by Mr. Carnegie himself, "A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert." How would the future generation be better, how could we just expect them to do what the last one couldn't do if they didn't teach them?

This not only helped the community then but this building has now developed into a building that holds all the information of that era. We are now doing more to educate the future with a thriving school district, and an even more community connected library that continues to educate as well as share the beautiful art of literature. Inspiring words in humans, more than just any old site on the internet could ever do. The libraries may not be as crucial as they used to be before all of the technology came along, but I couldn't imagine growing up in a community where I didn't blossom from the seed of books. Words spun around sinking into the rich fertile young soil of my brain. Now I am talking about the power of words by using words. Sure, the

community would have had other ways to educate, and would have probably put together a public library with or without funding by now, but this was the first step. So it should be recognized as one of the greatest seeds for the future in Anacortes, Skagit County, Washington