

Hello everybody. My name is Julian Gober and I've been given a wonderful opportunity to talk to you all about my experience with Berea's bridge program. Calling it a good experience would be the understatement of the century. It truly opened my eyes and gave me a glimpse of how much bigger the world is than what I originally thought it was. There were so many different personalities and ideals that were thrown my way, but it was so transformative because I have never really been around a body of people with so many different ideas. Where I'm from, there isn't much variety in ideas. No disrespect to Georgia as a whole, I love it, but the place where I lived wasn't all too fond of all the things that were **different** you know. So being within this bubble for most of my life coupled with me never being on my own for an extended amount of time gave me a bit of tunnel vision. But being in bridge gave me new friends, new perspectives, and made me more accepting of new thoughts as a whole. Along with the social aspect of things, I had one of the most drastic changes that I never would have dreamed of. One thing I can say all high schoolers, or just people in general tend to struggle with, is say it with me now... PROCRASTINATION. I was the king of waiting to the last minute to do things. Honestly my motto in high school had to have been: "I got time." When it came to absolutely everything school related. I got time is what I would tell myself. And I managed to get by, but it was such an unhealthy way of conduct and I knew that I wouldn't make it through college if I kept it up. And when I went to bridge, something in my head just flipped. I wanted to make a change and begin this new adventure with a good first impression. So that's exactly what I did. Not one assignment was late, and I found out that I was way more intelligent than I was presenting myself to be in high school. I was even told that I should be a physics major. And I'm a theater major! It was at that moment, that I felt that I have had a complete revamp. Bridge's impact on my life gave me skills that will stick with me forever, and am honored to have been given a place on this wonderful campus.

Thank you all and have a great night.