

My father passed away when I was only two. One year later, I accompanied my mother to Bangkok, Thailand and then to UC Berkeley to do her masters in Environment and Public Policy. In 1995, we returned to Vietnam and my mother started working in the environmental field. As a single mom, she has always tried to provide me with the best education and all the love she could give. Therefore, she has had great impact on my way of thinking and personalities.

Working on environment, she always reminds me to protect it. At first, they were only small things that I thought were obliged, like throwing trash in the right place, or using water/electricity economically. But later on, from our everyday conversations and from traveling quite a lot around the country, I realized how important the environment is to us. I began to care more about nature and especially about what we can do to protect our environment. Vietnam is a beautiful country with rich natural resources and wonderful biodiversity. However, environmental protection is now one of the most important things here since the country is heavily dependent on natural resources for its economy growth and poverty reduction. The air, water and soil are getting more polluted and if we do nothing, our future generations will not sustain their living or have the chance to contemplate our country's beauty.

I am applying to Wesleyan University with the hope to have better education and the chance to meet new people to learn and exchange ideas on how to build a better environment while we are developing. Although it is only my view on the environment, I wish to share a part of developing countries' current difficulties and believe that by learning different nations'

measures to protect the environment, we could find solutions to save our earth. Most of all, I would like to bring the knowledge and experience from studying at your university and from friends back to Vietnam to contribute to the development of my country, to protect the environment and overcome the difficulties Vietnam has been facing in protecting its environment.