

## Boomtown to Ivy League, BHS grad beats Harvard

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The majority of students that apply to Harvard get turned down, 95 percent to be exact. For many, the feeling of disappointment can be a crushing blow, but one former Borger High School student knows a different sort of feeling. The feeling being accepted to Harvard, and of graduating.

Rachel Thompson, a graduate of Borger High School, recently graduated from the prestigious Ivy League University. She says her roots in Borger helped give the "grit" to make it through her years at such a big place.

"I learned at Borger High School to really take advantage of all the opportunities, any opportunity I could. So I did everything, took all the advance placement classes, National Honors Society... that taught me really good work ethic and the grit we have in Texas and the South. When I got to Harvard, I maybe didn't have the best academic background. I was there with kids from the top, most wealthy, private schools in the entire world. I didn't have the academics maybe, but I had the work ethic. I knew to take advantage of everything and absolutely try my hardest. That gave me a great perspective. I had to work for it, so I appreciated it a lot," claims Thompson.

Thompson describes why she applied to Harvard and how it felt to be accepted.

"A lot of people say that once you get accepted to Harvard, you don't really turn it down," she says with a laugh. "That's how it was for me. My mom told me to apply because the worst thing they can do is say no. They say no to about 95 percent of people, so it wouldn't be a big deal if they said no to me. I applied on that whim. When I got in, my family and I were just blown away," explains Thompson. **See Harvard pg. 2**

# Harvard

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The distance was a bit of a struggle, but Thompson would not let that stop her.

"It was really far away, but I didn't want to turn down the opportunity. I studied social anthropology and comparative literature. [Harvard] has a liberal arts college. So no matter what you want to do, you end up studying one concentration, which is the same as majors. If you want to do law, you will probably study government, or if you want to medicine, you will probably study chemistry or biology. I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I ended up studying anthropology and literature as a double major," tells Thompson. "I studied writing, literature and people as an undergraduate. I learned how to think, so I'm trying to figure out ways to apply all that thinking to things I love, and I love art."

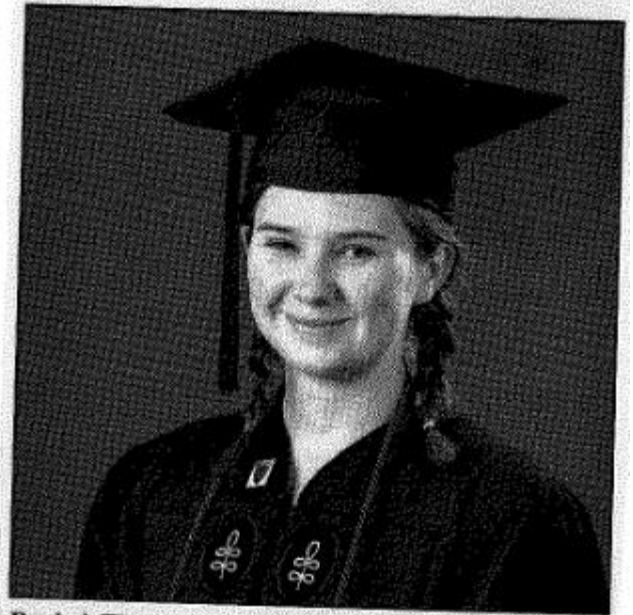
Going from small town Texas to Boston, Massachusetts was a massive change, but Thompson said Berger High School helped prepare her for life at Harvard.

Competing in UIL played a major part in her years at Harvard, says Thompson.

"I had Coach Carroll for my AP English teacher for my Junior and Senior year. He knew I wanted to learn as much as I could. He helped me with my writing and that was one of my strongest areas when I got to Harvard. I immediately started taking literature classes. My professors thought I could write pretty well and a lot of that came from Coach Carroll. From Fourth grade to 12th, I competed in ready writing at UIL. For 10 years, I did this. You wrote an essay in two hours over a cause. That really helped my develop my writing," says Thompson.

Right now, Thompson is working at an art museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

"I like it a lot, it's a lot of fun. Right now, I'm working on digital projects. I'm working with Google Arts and Culture and adding content to that," informs Thomp-



Rachel Thompson, pictured above in her cap and gown, graduated from Harvard University this year. (Courtesy Photo)

son.

Google Arts and Culture has content from over 1,000 museums and archives, letting people explore places and things from their computer.