

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize]

## **Education Across Endless Clouds**

(Original)

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The foundation of a better future lies within the youth, within the next generation, within education. There are many complex problems in the world, one of which is the human ideology to spread their own thoughts and to be heard; this need raging throughout their blood, causing them to do hateful things unto others. All of these problems begin with a simple human state -- a state of being unsatisfied, a state of being not at peace.

Every child should be at peace. Many people tell others that their dreams aren't realistic, and that they cannot happen; thus, so many live in a state without inner peace with themselves. What if the future holds a place where any dream is possible, and that no child is told that they cannot be what they want, that their future is fully in their hands? In poverty or in wealth, no child should be inferior because of small issues like money. Dreams are clouds in the future of education. The truth is, reality and dreams are not all that different. In fact, dreams are like fog that kiss reality, softly like a mother does a child. Every dream can come true for the future; the future always has an infinite amount of doors and roads to take.

An ideal education system is incredibly varied, so that each student can find their passion. Instead of waiting until college and having only a limited time to decide on what each student will do for their adulthood, why not start at childhood? Yes, childhood is a place to learn the ABC's, go out and play, and eat popsicle sticks, but isn't it also time to ponder about the future? As children, we are so innocent, never thinking about what the future will hold, but what if that innocence is preserved? As we grow older, we learn about reality and tragedy that begin to weigh each child and their dreamy clouds down one by one until there is nearly none left in the sky.

Yes, students should eventually grow out fantasies, but they should never forget them. As Paulo Coelho said, "There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear

of failure." Children encounter fear and failure; all of their dreams get stuffed into a tiny corner of their heart until that storage is overtaken by fear, failure, and harsh reality. Education should dig into that corner and expand their views and dreams; humanity will advance to solve local and global problems everywhere in our lives. Reality will serve as motivation for students and children to better the world and promote the ultimate goal: for the world and everybody in it to be at peace.

This education system should encourage self-discovery whilst still being a blend of innocence and interest. They will be able to choose the subjects they are passionate about when they feel ready to do so. Education will be a basic human right, no matter the color, race, ethnicity, gender, or wealth of each child. This education includes hands-on activities, patience without the pressure of many deadlines, and interaction with adults of their chosen profession or other students. Students will be able to develop their own intelligence by fully understanding and promoting creative, self-thought, and individual ideas. There will be many levels of each profession, and qualified people in the field to teach it and interact with the students, instead of the students reading from a textbook everyday, like the education system I experience today.

Today I am not at peace. I do not know what my future holds, nor what I want it to hold. People have told me that my dreams are unrealistic, or forced their ideas for my future upon me. Our education system today has not encouraged me to find my passion; instead, I must go through this searching journey alone and afraid. No child should ever fear their future; they should look to the future with hope and happiness. I hope for the future generations that education will improve to a state of happiness, and that every child gets to be a child and taste the dew dropped by the petals of peace.