

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Education – Key to a Better Future (Original)

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“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” The aforementioned quote, from English writer Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie, shows the impact a proper education can have on a person, and how it can change their life completely. Education is defined as the act or process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills. It is not explicitly restricted to preparing for jobs, but is truly invaluable for people and communities to prosper and succeed. Thus, we can say that education plays an important role in building a better future for us all.

With today’s world facing problems of varying difficulties and complexities, how can education be made ideal for everyone? We could start by making education more accessible to people across all walks of life. Government schools and private institutions could be opened up more, and a standard benchmark of education set out for each country. This can lead to an improvement in the overall standard of living, and such opportunities will allow the African-American proverb “Each One Teach One” to be followed through properly on a global scale.

Another way to make education ideal is to increase awareness on as many areas as possible. Education is not meant simply to be divided into the sciences, arts and businesses. By increasing awareness, people will begin to see the bigger picture, and can better understand experiences worldwide. This also allows a pathway for sharing opinions and opportunities for discussion to be available. As a result, we can view problems from all angles, before making a final collective decision, be it for a community or even for one’s own self. This would reflect an improvement in our intellect and thinking.

An ideal education would also provide fresh experiences, and would help prepare both oneself and communities for scenarios yet not faced. Every human being is born with their innate talents, which help them excel in fields which interest them. Some people may learn best through auditory experiences, while others may favour visual ones. Some may prefer kinesthetic experiences, while the rare groups of people who ideally learn through various experience combinations are also found. At the heart of all this lies one thing: interest. By providing new experiences, and by applying what is learnt from them, progress is possible, and we would be better prepared for situations which we have never faced before!

Lastly, an ideal education would promote the desire to grow and learn more. There is only so much we humans can accomplish with our bodies, and the finite resources which have been granted to us on this planet Earth. Renowned theoretical physicist Albert Einstein has quoted, “Everybody is a

genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." What would be better, spending our limited lifespans competing with each other for survival and progress, or joining forces in growth and learning together? A desire to grow together and share knowledge would result in unmatched unity, the truest gift of an ideal education. It is up to us all to implement such ideals, and to try and achieve it.

Education truly is the driving force behind the advancements the human race has made, over the course of history. It is a major key to success, both for every individual human being, and also for the global community as a whole. Testing our limits through education, with unwavering determination, could lead to the cure for cancer, further exploration of space than has ever been done before, world peace; the possibilities are endless! In light of a famous quote by Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the Moon, an ideal education would indeed be one giant leap for mankind!