

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Teaching for Confident Dreams (Original)

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These days, while students in Korea are well educated, they forget their identity. Protected from the problems they need to face in the future, they follow the same path as those before them. While attending educational institutions day and night, memorizing words and taking tests, they rarely consider what they really desire to do or who they want to be. Their future is decided for them regardless of their dreams. However, what will happen if these students become adults? If they no longer are protected by their parents and country, how will they decide their future and face problems independently? Students must know themselves before they are able to properly understand their society. War, discrimination, crime, the rich-poor gap and many other problems will continue to exist and prevent peace. Therefore teaching to promote peace is teaching students who they really are.

To fulfill this teaching method, schools should not give the answer, but 'help' students find the answer. Education should be progressed in a way students can decide things for themselves. Rather than limiting the answer to one, schools should become the base to provide experiences and opportunities that will help students make their own decisions. For that purpose, programs having outside lecturers speak at schools may play a key role. These lecture programs exist to offer experience. For instance, TED is a global lecture program under the slogan "Ideas Worth Spreading", where many famous and experienced people speak. These people all have different jobs, and backgrounds, which they can share with the audience. Ultimately, the youth will be empowered through the diverse lectures.

If this teaching method is implemented, students will learn how to respect every job and person. Unfortunately, our country values jobs by how much money they make. For example,

many people frown upon janitors and service workers. Some parents even threaten their children, "You'll become like that if you don't study." Though every job equally helps society, we overly value jobs with high pay such as doctors or lawyers. Oppositely, jobs like cleaners or authors do not receive deserved respect or reputation. However in lecture programs, different people provide equally important lessons in life on the same stage. Students will see that individual difference do not correlate with real value. This will bring them one step closer to accepting their differences. Furthermore, equal appreciation for jobs will allow students to confidently proclaim their dream no matter what dream that is. Peace will be realized as students learn how to respect every job and person.

This teaching method can inspire students, too. Many students give up their real dream because they are confused about what they want. As a result, South Korean students face a tough dilemma when choosing their career. Although they study hard, their only purpose is to be successful or attend a good university, not to achieve their dreams. However, I believe inspiration can find paths for students who are wandering about their career. In that case, TED and WeDay are eccentric programs for inspiration. From psychologists to entrepreneurs, Google founders to British computer journalists, many people with different jobs explain what they do, and how they attempted to achieve success. Students will get in-depth advice from the lecturer and learn real lessons that they need. Also, they will be exposed to many careers. This will help students pick their future job and the skills needed for it.

My mom wanted to become a magazine editor. However, she gave up that dream and became a lawyer because she was accepted to law school. She said that she never thought the job was suitable for her. Like this, many of the students give up their dreams to pursue a stable path. While some jobs are respected from society, some are not, which is also why discrimination happens. However I wish this world was a place where students can be proud of their dreams, and pursue their desired future. I wish difference to be accepted, so that everyone can have the same chances. If everyone notices each and everyone's true value, this society can become peaceful and respectful to everyone. Therefore teaching to realize peace is teaching students who they really are.