

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

Diversity; Understanding Each Other by Hearts

(Original)

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Nowadays, there are many tragedies happening around the world due to religious conflicts or gender problems. It breaks my heart to watch the CNN news every morning, learning that innocent people, again, had been victimized over the night. On the other side, we can never ignore other issues such as population growth and environmental harms too. In short, the world that we belong is now suffering from the rotten fruits of humans' own decisions.

Then the question arises, what can we do to make the world a better place? I say that the absolute solution for these challenges is education. Education is definitely one thing that is closely related to our daily life, from the moment we were born. As a student attending an international school, I luckily had the opportunity to experience multi-culture and diversity. Being part of Brent school community along with people from different nations taught me what ideal education should look like.

One thing that I insist to be the most important of all is accepting differences. Despite different skin colors, different languages, different gender, or maybe even different personalities of each, we need to acknowledge the fact that in the end, we are all equal. The ultimate goal of this world is to create a peaceful environment where everybody productively lives one's life to the fullest and enjoy happiness. If we refuse to respect one another's diversity, what we'll eventually be left with is only going to be a series of conflicts and oppressions. Therefore, I aim to establish the education in which everyone's identity is equally respected. I want our students to utterly understand how each and every one of us have different beliefs and his or her own conviction, and that it's purely their choice to believe in what they think is right. In conclusion, it is extremely important for us to understand each other by hearts.

Thus I would like to modestly propose the ideal education in which every individual is equally

respected. I wish to realize the education in which we learn how each person is different from one another. I dare to dream that through education, we can achieve genuine world peace together. In all honesty, the power of education will truly shine only if we put our heads together and cooperate as a whole.

Moreover, I strongly believe that it's very crucial for us students to learn independently. In fact, South Korea, my home country, is infamous for its harsh education by rote. In fact, when I went to middle school in Korea, I had to memorize tons of English words a day, feeling as if I became a robot, not a human being. I even had to remain after class if I didn't get an A on the daily vocabulary quiz, taking it again and again until I got a satisfying score. I even had to take a taxi when all the service buses left. Because of the fact that the students were 'forced' to study, we weren't able to think creatively and critically. After dealing with such an abject reality, I came to the Philippines where I could study on my own and learn actively. I managed to think independently, brought up new ideas and put them on action. From my very own experience, I insist that allowing students to freely express their own ideas and opinions would make them confidently stand against oppression and inequality. Through active learning, they will have that power to fight against injustice with their words and actions.

Hence, I have no doubt that this kind of education will help to design our students as strong, independent individuals and furthermore, greatly contribute on building a better future for all of us. In fact, the future leaders of our own world deserve to be educated to grow independently and learn actively. The starting point of all should be marked with understanding each other by hearts as it is the only way we can be combined in the name of diversity. It would be my greatest hope that my ideal education can become the absolute key to resolve world's conflicts.