

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

Education to Build a Better Future for All

(Original)

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Current system of education worldwide was designed for the Age of Enlightenment and has changed little since then. The main purpose of education is to help young people to build their future by being economically independent. However, few people know what will happen in 5 years, which makes it difficult, if not impossible, for schools to prepare children for the future.

According to Einstein, "Education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think". It makes sense since the world is moving at such a rapid pace that it is now more vital that children learn how to think and adapt rather than how to merely memorize facts. That is why the fundamental idea of education should be to teach children how to think.

Unfortunately, present schools are not so concerned with critical thinking skills but rather with memorization, which fails to prepare children for the real world. Students are trained to memorize volumes of theoretical information to pass multiple-choice tests, which might help them to get into college, but leave unprepared for the challenges in future life. The whole school time is basically a kind of preparation for the final exams.

Education should be relevant.

We live in the Computer Age where massive amount of information is available anytime.

However, it's not a matter of how much you know but what you are able to do with what you know and how quick you can adapt and react in the competitive world of innovations. Having systematic educational background students cannot produce fresh and creative ideas.

Therefore I believe teachers need to use Socratic method to help their students discover their beliefs about some topic rather than talking alone in front of the class. To generate future we need to be able to find and to highlight the key information and to make conclusions. To think intuitively and to think with concepts – that is what machines cannot do.

I support the idea that schools should teach creativity and open-mindedness. Children need to be taught that there are a lot of possible ways to solve the task. Instead of copying theory from books, pupils should be asked to do a project mentored by a teacher. Interactive lessons and collaboration are a proven method to learn new information. In every class there are extroverted and introverted children and I believe the role of a teacher is to get everyone involved. All opinion should be encouraged and respected and every child needs to feel comfortable in the class regardless his personality traits, cultural or social background.

Education should be interesting and waking up what is inside.

There is a hierarchy of subjects in schools. Math and computer science are “good” subjects to learn, while arts or sports are considered to be non-academic disciplines. I think intelligence is not about being a walking library used for needs of industrialization. Children ought not to feel like they can achieve nothing if they do not want to be a software developer or a manager. The world’s most successful people achieved their success primarily because they are doing what they love.

I suppose school should be a mentoring guide, a place to make mistakes, to discover talents and to set life values. If schooling were more individualized and not systematic, where every child could receive a feedback on his development, the world might get more competent citizens. On my view it is possible to implement while learning in smaller groups and making it obligatory for teachers to do an annual training in psychology and new teaching methods.

Education should be global.

As earth becomes a global community and to prevent conflicts people have to understand their own culture and to respect others who think different. That is why there ought to be more exchange programs open not only for future scientist, but also for average students who want to play guitar or to dance because they are good at it.

We have got to be creative and find what we love and by doing what we are good at we are building a better life for everyone.