

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

"...the world's problems are never tidily confined to the laboratory or spreadsheets" (Source E). America lends itself to being a country with a plethora of opportunities & jobs that are constantly in demand, day in & day out; however, one of the most prevalent job opportunities in this time and age holds itself to be in STEM fields. This begs the question, if the demand for jobs in the STEM field are increasing, should America focus on increasing the number of students to apply and focus on these majors? In a sense, it would make sense to pour more resources into this field of education; however, this new found opportunity should not squander the prevalence of other fields such as literature or the arts. Therefore, although there should be more value placed on the development of STEM education, there should be no diminishing of the value of other subjects in order to achieve this goal.

Part of the ~~desire~~ desire that lays in increasing STEM education lies in the fact that the demand for people in this field are, and continue to, increase. Based on a study done by the United States Department of Education, it's projected for there to be a 62% increase in demand for biomedical engineers & over a third of the total percentage increase in medical science & software developers (Source B). This large increase can be attributed to the new form of economy that the US has taken on, particularly in the fact that there is now a focus on the customer input in the product (Source A). Both the increase in demand as well as the shifting economy work in tandem to establish the fact that those in STEM professions ~~benefit~~ benefit not only large businesses, but the people as well. There is also the fact that society itself has a heavy dependence on the development of the STEM field; however, it holds true that there lacks focus on the field. Although one cannot sacrifice being well rounded ^{to succeed in} one particular subject, their efforts to

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Question 1

Question 2

Question 3



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establish equal footing dilute the much needed focus for the field itself (Source F). The American education has failed to fully acknowledge the importance of STEM education as well, leaving itself 27th out of 65 total education systems (Source A). This communicates further that in order to move with the changing economy as well as the increase in demand for STEM majors, America must put a larger value on the field as a whole.

Placing a focus on ~~stem~~ STEM education does not mean a whole displacement of other fields of education though, as more times than not it is found that all subjects work together in unison to produce a successful STEM based student. ~~While it is true that there is a demand for education that is~~ It's the fact that literature & technology, although completely opposite ends of the spectrum, work in tandem due to the fact that both cultures are so highly dependent on each other (Source C). Large corporations ^{such as Steve Jobs of Apple or Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook,} that host STEM geniuses ~~concede the fact~~ that they are as much dependent on the liberal arts as any other STEM major. This creates the narrative that although there should be a focus on ^{the} STEM ^{field} ~~majors~~, the larger goal lies in the fact that America should establish an education system that places subjects in unison instead of undermining each other. ~~This that focus~~ with an increased focus on the equality of STEM education, the opportunities & jobs follow through. Much of the jobs that make up America's workforce have found themselves to place a higher priority on overall character as well, further highlighting the importance of developing one's overall presentability & ~~person~~ ideas from the lessons of literature & art (Source D). As a whole, the importance of a well rounded STEM education not only emphasize the development of students, but the fact that success becomes a byproduct due to the skills obtained.

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Question 2

Question 3



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As such, this determines the fact that, while STEM education must be raised both in value & standards, the overall ~~the~~ reform needs to create an equal educational system that provides opportunity for success sustains itself as the true goal in developing the STEM field. ~~Because~~ At the end of the day, "...the world's problems are never truly confined to a laboratory or spreadsheet" (Barra E)

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Question 2

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America's image as an innovation and education hub has slowed, and much of this can be attributed to the unsatisfactory ^{implementation of} STEM. Because of the increasing need in STEM job opportunities, the incentives to retain America's position as an innovation economy, and the importance of suppressing the decay of American aptitude in STEM subjects, there is great value improving STEM education and interest.

First, STEM-~~not~~ focused curriculum must improve because America is struggling internationally in STEM subjects. In Source A, the author points to the Program for International Student Assessment, which ranks 15 year olds internationally in STEM subjects. America made headlines by "sliding in Global Ranking in math, Reading and Science." This shows that there is value in increasing STEM education because other countries are rising over America in education, and in order to change that narrative, there must be an increase in K-12 education in STEM. By putting more value into the improving of STEM and the increasing of access in STEM educations, America can retain it's position as a top nation in education.

Second, there is great value in increasing STEM in America because there is a large demand increase in job opportunities in STEM fields according to trends of the past 10 years. According to the graph in Source B, there has been a 14% increase in all STEM-related occupations in America from ~~2010~~ 2010-2020. This means that the economy needs more and more

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Question 2

Question 3



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people that are STEM-educated in the workforce. This means that American workers would be incentivised with better jobs if they were incentivised with a strong STEM education. Students who receive STEM-education are stronger job candidates in the workforce. To maximize the economy's output, employment, and general wellbeing, America must invest in an improved STEM-based education to supply the economy with able employees that will stimulate an innovative economy.

Increasing STEM-education in America is imperative in order to retain America's position as an innovation economy. According to Source F, in 2014, "4 out of 10 companies still find that at least half of their entry-level job applicants don't even have the basic skills in STEMs" (Source F). This shows the desperate need for an increased commitment to STEM, because having less than ~~wanted~~ ideal employee ability limits companies and limits the economic growth of America. Also, America's "bread and butter" has been innovation, but that has slowed—a consequence of the lack of STEM aptitude. STEM is the "spark to rekindle America's commitment to an innovation economy," and in order to maintain and grow upon America's economic status, they must emphasize STEM resources.

America must improve STEM education in order to present workers with the capability to work jobs, to improve the nation's status in education, and reinvigorate America's image

Sample 1B (3 of 3)

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Question 2

Question 3



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as an innovation economy. By investing in STEM-education, America will benefit as the workforce will be capable and the economy, in turn, will prosper.