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Persuasive Essay Outline

- Introduction
 - Topic - The education system should help students find and pursue what they are interested in and what they are planning to do as a career choice after highschool and prepare them with skills and knowledge required for their career.
 - Topic Extended - Public education should push students to excel in their strengths and further aid them in their pursuit of a career after highschool. Elementary school should focus on getting every student to a set standard of basic human and societal skills - ie math, reading, writing, social skills. Middle school should have the basic requirements of each student needing to know American History, and finishing up English Comprehension along with any other classes that students may be interested in. Highschool should focus on pushing students to pursue their interests and aid them in finding a career choice after the public education system, either that be immediately or after university.
 - New Topic? - The Privatization of schools - The next step in formal education.
 - Hook - A couple century old public education system can not hold up to the requirements of a modernized and ever changing society.

- Background -
 - S1 - All students are put to the same standard, limiting the potential of excelling students, and preventing failing students from finding their potential. - Standardized Testing
 - S2 - Charter Schools create competition with the public education system and can bolster enthusiasm in the classroom while weeding out failing schools.
 - S3 - Privatization of schools, allow industry to have a hand in education
- Democratic theorists, statesmen, and citizens, from the founding of the American republic until the twenty-first century, have stressed the importance of education to inform and engage citizens in a healthy democracy.
- In his farewell address on September 19, 1796, George Washington advised:

“Promote ... as an object of primary importance, Institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.”
- Supporting Evidence #1
 - Such [Charter] schools have been used to explore alternative **education** methodologies, such as the Montessori and Waldorf methods, as well as to address the different learning styles and special academic needs of students.
 - Include religion in education (theoretically anything parents want)
 - Student choice is a big part of home education
 - Students that excel can jump ahead without barriers

- Proponents claim that charter schools, vouchers, and other new means of providing education will produce higher achievement; encourage innovation; promote equity by giving poor families, in particular, more options; and foster accountability by enabling dissatisfied consumers to vote with their feet.
- If a community group or private school can do a better job of educating students than a school district can, under this line of thinking, then it should get a chance to do so.
- To their proponents, charter schools are the "grand compromise," able to generate broad, bipartisan support. Republicans like their emphasis on choice, competition, and deregulation. Democrats like the fact that they are still public schools: open to all, free of charge, nonreligious, and accountable to public authorities.
- Charter schools must generally live up to a performance contract, yet at the same time often encourage more freedom for teachers and administrators, be it through innovative teaching methods, more efficient management of class structures and resources, or by targeting specific areas of academic achievement.
- Since the 1980s, when it became clear that U.S. primary and secondary students' test scores were lagging behind those of students in other developed nations, numerous measures have been enacted in an effort to improve public education. These include mandatory testing and stricter accreditation standards for the nation's public schools.
- No Child Left Behind, for instance, drew significant criticism from educators and parents in large part due to its focus on standardized testing. Critics argued that the act placed an excessive emphasis on standardized testing that prompted

teachers to focus overwhelmingly on teaching the test rather than well-rounded curricula, and they likewise argued that the standards set forth by the act did not take the individual educational needs of students into account.

- Do you think there should be a standardized test at all?

- For the basic knowledge of like math and english I can see having a standardized test to see the level of each student and where to place them for classes - if they're doing extremely well then put them in a more difficult class, and if they're failing get them some help. Other than that not really.

- Supporting Evidence #2

- The report's authors argued that the United States was losing ground in fields such as science and technology, as compared to other leading countries, and that students' inadequate **education** was threatening the country's ability to compete in an increasingly globalized world.

- Among other data cited, the report noted that twenty-three million American adults were functionally illiterate, that pre college standardized test scores had decreased since the 1960s, and that students were not graduating with the level of knowledge necessary to compete in skilled fields.

- Do you think competition in school is necessary or not?

- YES! Yes it is! Absolutely yes! I can't tell you how many times competition pushed me to do better in music and sports. If competition was not a part of my school life I would hate it even more than I do now - at least the bad stuff, I do have some fond memories.

- Supporting Evidence #3

- Universities often collaborate with one another, with private industry, and with the government to improve an aspect of, or the approach to, a particular problem. Federal and state governments issue competitive grants, university faculty publish and disseminate their findings and are evaluated on their research production, and private businesses invest in university research and provide real-world sites for university researchers and students to test new ideas. Many universities also provide incubator facilities and services for start-up ventures.
- Graduates still need to adequately and accurately apply what they have learned to the problems and possibilities they encounter in their work. For many institutions of higher learning, finding the appropriate balance between classroom study and practical experience is a persistent challenge. They must decide how much and what type of practical experience will most benefit prospective doctors, lawyers, teachers, or engineers. The world for which colleges and universities prepare their graduates is constantly changing.
- How do you rate your public education?
 - I felt that if there were more options I could have pursued what I wanted. Luckily there was some amount of [music] classes and an amazing teacher to boot. But the lack of personnel to teach with an influx of students left only the main [music] classes available and things like music theory and world music were tossed.
- If you could redo your public education with no limiters - ie no money restraint, commute restraint, all classes available - Would you?

- To be honest, high school was rough. But if I had more options to choose what classes I would've liked to take than perhaps I might have enjoyed it more? I'm not sure to be honest I would have to think about that.
 - What would you change about the current education system as you know it?
 - Perhaps a limit on the students, or maybe more teachers? If there were more teachers or less students there would be more opportunity for different classes under a single subject - I think - That was the problem at my highschool anyways. I don't know if having more buildings would help, especially in rural areas. But the lack of staff is definitely a problem in my opinion.
- Counterargument
 - [Thomas] Paine proposed providing money to individuals so that they could pay for their own education. That money would almost certainly have been used in a religious school, since most schools of the time were founded by Protestant ministers to educate the faithful.
 - Since nearly 95 percent of private schools in the United States have religious affiliations, today's opponents of school vouchers frequently point to the Blaine Amendment to support their position, saying that supporting religious schools is in effect a violation of the separation of church and state.
 - For many African-Americans today, present-day school voucher programs carry echoes of the discriminatory state programs of the post-Brown years.
 - of the eight publicly sponsored voucher programs (seven states and the District of Columbia), only three directly target low-income students.

- More than 80 percent--some sources report as high as 95 percent--of US private schools have religious affiliations, and in many areas, the only private schools available to voucher students are those with a religious affiliation. The result is that large amounts of public money are going to religious schools, which may teach in ways that ignore or contradict public policy and constitutional protections.
 - Some voucher advocates counter that the money in many states is distributed to students and their families, not to the schools themselves. Regardless, the check that pays the student's tuition fees at a private religious school represents a public subsidy to a religious institution and a violation of the Constitution.
- Anti-discrimination laws and Federal protections for freedom of speech generally do not apply within private school walls, and the schools are free to discriminate against students based on their gender, religion, sexual orientation, and a host of other factors.
- Most voucher supplements do not nearly cover the entire cost of education in private schools, sometimes requiring parents to come up with thousands of dollars to make up the difference.
 - Most private school subsidies to families run between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a year, but tuition at most private schools is easily double that amount and often much higher.
- Other reported improvements, such as the positive effects of peer associations, are also under critical review. Overall, the study confirmed achievement gains for

only tiny subgroups of the better-prepared scholarship students and no impact at all for other participating students, including those whose test scores were in the lower ranges at the time of their entry into the private schools.

- So, regardless of whether voucher programs exist or not, the overwhelming majority of students will remain in the public school system out of necessity. It is here that improvements need to be made. Competition for money between private schools and stressed cities and counties can hardly be thought to provide a basis for improving education for all.

- Sum Up Conclusion

- Like other American institutions, higher education will continue to evolve—in some respects clinging to the traditions of the past, whereas in others forging new directions. Several basic functions of higher education are undergoing slow but steady reform. The ways in which content is delivered and assessed, knowledge is created and disseminated, students collaborate and learn, and institutions distribute scarce resources are undergoing modest but consistent reform. Higher education institutions, however, will continue to play important roles in the economic, social, and political development of American society and contribute key elements to its system of governance.
- Charter schools explore different teaching techniques, are more likely to adhere to the needs of students, provide competition with public schools, and reduce class sizes
- Education is important and the U.S. is falling behind on the global stage.

- Making highschoools collaborate with the industry - similar to university - may improve the learning and interest for students not entering university.
- Private schools are not required to follow state regulation, and thus may be less safe and produce less desirable results than public schools. Vouchers do not aid in the efforts of public schools and can be discriminatory when attempting to enter certain private schools.
- So What Conclusion
 - America is falling behind with an increased pace as time goes on. Education needs to change, more drastically in some places over others. More teachers are needed for an increase of options in classes, as well as an increase in school choice.
 - Competition needs to be promoted between students and schools alike to promote a raise in the minimal standard and overall improve the bottom line.
 - Students need to be taught differently. An increase of varying schools and staff members aid in this
 - Changes are needed for the public education system to hold to the new modern standard

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