

How Do Schools Kill Students' Creativity

Okay, good morning everybody here. I am Chenyang Zhao from the school of software, a brand new soul in this immense university who is earnestly longing for his rich and colorful undergraduate life as you all.

And today, I want to convey my perspective on a top-watched TED show addressed by a stunning educator Sir Ken Robinson. (此处放上 TED 截图) From his point of view, the whole purpose of public education throughout the world is to produce university professors, thus making it too expensive to afford the price of making mistakes. If kids are not prepared to be wrong, they'll never come up with anything original. And by the time they get to be adults, they will have become frightened of being wrong, thus losing their creativity. To a certain degree, I do agree with Sir Ken Robinson's opinion. Furthermore, I think most of our education deprive us of capacity and courage for making decisions by ourselves, which leads to the lack of creativity. And my following part will explain what kind of education we have now, and how it is killing our creativity.

My first point is that, university is a fairyland full of immense diversity.

As you have just already heard, my description to our university is a single but powerful adjective, immense, which, indeed, is to say, here, in this world first class university, (图片: 世一大), we have massive diversity of choices, to which we all attach great significance.

To stress this, let's look at some decisions you may never have a chance to make in your middle-school life.

First, what to eat. Here, 19 independent dining halls with thousands of tasty meals from all over our country, even all over the world. (此处展示三张照片, 一张紫荆四楼一张清芬二楼, 还有一张桃李的日式排队和面, 每张三秒左右) Actually, I am suffering from choosing where and what to eat everyday, as you may.

Second, which to choose. (此处展现一张高中的课程表, 注意要把体育课划掉, 并改为数学课) This is my class schedule at high school. Just like most of us. Yeah, without PE class. But now, this! (摆出清华的选课手册, 放三张, 一张三秒, 一张微积分, 一张写沟, 还有一张外语(西班牙语等等)) Courses you choose to attend have direct influence on your life equality and happiness degree. For example, if you choose a course like this. (此处放上曹哥的课程表) Or you choose a course like this. (此处放上钟俊宇的课表)

last but not least, what to do. At middle school most of our days is pretty simple and similar. Courses, exams, homework, sleep. Then courses, exams, homework, sleep again and again. (此处放上一张 do while 循环) But here, (放上第一张图, 百团大战) association community. (放上游泳队的照片) Sports. And even (放上情侣照片) or (学堂路车神). God, I am pondering where to go and what to do here every second.

In that case, as we all have seen, massive diversity of choice is fairly charming, attractive and of great importance, but, with unpredictable risk and unbearable price.

Now, all of you has gotten that university is full of diversity and the capacity for making proper choices is of vital significance. let's look back to what, Sir Robinson stressed. In our national education system, mistakes are the worst thing to make. But if we don't prepare to be wrong, we can hardly come up with anything really creative.

Because of the unbearable price of making wrong choices, our schools deprive us of nearly all of our options which should be cautiously decided and carefully chosen

by ourselves. It make a coercive but vital decision for us. Enroll a famous middle school, exert all our time and effort to study a lot of courses, even we may feel totally exhausted, then, take the college entrance exam, to come to our world first class university. (此处放上衡水的作息表和清华录取通知书)

To say it frankly, it is fairly a so-called proper choice for nearly all of us. But every coin has two sides. Our capacity for making proper choices which are suitable for ourselves most is, just deprived. Sir Ken Robinson said in his TED that our education is merely to cater for the most useful subjects for work. So at middle school, we don't have to choose, we are chosen or arranged totally. Schools choose these so-called proper choice, and we just fake it as if it is decided by ourselves.

Then the crucial problem happens right now. We are college students now. Could you please tell me, who will make decision for us instead of ourselves?

Schools? No. We will have graduated. Parents? No. Because we all know our life should and only should be lived by ourselves.

No one else. But yourself!

At the end, please allow me to generalize my point of view. In the past, most of our decisions were made not by ourselves. But mostly by the education we receive. The choice is so-called proper, even perfect, but gradually deprive us of our own capacity for making proper choice for ourselves, thus leading to our lack of courage to be wrong or to be creative.

(放到 PPT 上: Most of our education deprive us of capacity and courage for making decisions by ourselves, which leads to the lack of creativity.)

Start now, and try our best to choose it!

That's all. Thanks for your listening.