

EN_91655303 Review of TED Talk

I agree with his ideas on the school system. I think it really likes to assign numbers to children based on how smart they are and then tell them what they can and cannot do purely based on those numbers without looking at the other factors at play like, for example, motivation. I also think it is a problem that in order to study for example history you first have to be good at maths to get your secondary school degree, even though this has nothing to do with it.

I think that intelligence is a very broad term and there is not necessarily one number that can define a person's full intelligence. You can divide intelligence up in many ways. One way that I like is the separation of analytical intelligence, about problem solving, completing analogies and puzzles, creative intelligence, coming up with new and creative solutions to problems, and practical intelligence, about everyday tasks. Although I also think these three types could be divided up into more types of intelligence and certain things, like emotional intelligence, are still not really included. The biggest challenge for separating different forms of intelligence is that people can be good at many different things. One person might be a very good leader, but struggle greatly with other things that are also included in practical intelligence. If you were to give this person a number on how good their practical intelligence is, this would be extremely skewed. It would not at all represent their skills. For that reason I think intelligence should not be measured with a score, but rather in a more subjective way where something can be said about the specific abilities and struggles a person has.

I think a certain amount of intelligence is necessary to be considered successful in society. My uncle for example has down syndrome, a psychologist once rated his intelligence as lower than that of a one-year old, and he is unable to ever have a regular job because of that. But I would not say he is necessarily unsuccessful. I think success is very subjective and people often think that being successful means having a well-paid job. I would say my uncle is successful with what he does, he is always quite happy and a lot of people know him and think positively about him because of that. I believe that he is very successful, just in his own way and with its limitations and opportunities.

I think that society would be different with a broader view of intelligence in which a specific person's strengths are more recognised and these strengths are not overlooked because of certain weaknesses. Looking at intelligence this way would increase people's opportunities because even though someone fails maths in secondary school as they struggle to understand it, they would still be able to study history, something they are good at and passionate about.