Formal education is one of the most important aspects of any civilized society. Its main purpose within most societies is to ensure that the youth have the skills and knowledge necessary to positively contribute to and perpetuate the goals of the society. While normally formal education is unbiased and serves as a way for students to learn about topics away from the potentially biased influenced of their parents. But this is not always what happens, Laila has a teacher named Khala Rangmaal, who instead of giving her pupils an open-minded perspective on Afghanistan’s toxic political climate, preached about how great the Soviet rule is: “She said that the Soviet Union was the best nation in the world, along with Afghanistan”(Hosseini 111). Rangmaal’s reckless display of her love for the Soviet Union defeats the main purpose of formal education, which is to turn the young of a society into critical thinkers instead of brainwashed members of a hive mind. But unfortunately Rangmaal’s biased style of teaching was very common in the Soviet Union and that helped the oppressive government maintain its control. Formal education serves make sure that the youth of a society can positively contribute to their society instead of repeating the mistakes of their forefathers.

Formal Education has always been something that I personally struggle with, because I understand its value but at times lack the will power to take it seriously. Formal education is essential because it helps ensure every generation is smarter then the one that can before it; this advancement means that society as a whole will progress with each generation instead of becoming stagnant like it did in the dark ages. Formal education is extremely valuable to a society that values intelligence but can be very detrimental to societies in which a small group or person has absolute power.

One place that I have received informal education on par with my formal education has been Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>), which is a website with thousands of video lessons on just about every subject imaginable. When I was first teaching myself to code, I would constantly reference Khan Academy videos because of how well they explain complex concepts, while still avoiding rhetorical questions, which are something that causes me to become extremely disinterested in whatever medium, I am trying to learn from. Khan Academy was also helpful to me when I was struggling with math in elementary school, and because of this, it might as well be a second school for me. One the most important aspects of Khan Academy in terms of its global impact is that it ensures people no matter what society they live in, can get a great informal education for free when formal is not available.