Reading *A Thousand Splendid Suns* was an emotional rollercoaster for me in terms of how it made me feel about the Islamic faith and the way that it showed me just how important formal unbiased education is. After reading the novel, I have a new respect for formal education because now I have witnessed what can happen in its absence. It also showed me just how damaging cultural education can be when bigoted and hateful ideas are pasted down from generation to generation and there is a lack of formal education. I first truly realized this at the end of Part One when Rasheed mercilessly beats Mariam and says, “Now you know what your rice tastes like. Now you know what you’ve given me in this marriage”(Hosseini 104). Rasheed’s brutalization of his wife would be considered a very heinous act worthy of intervention by many of us, but because of Afghanistan’s culture of marital matters being private business, people would most likely not come to Mariam’s aid if they witnessed her being abused. The effects of cultural education in this novel have only furthered my belief that culture education has the potential to be the most misleading of all.

While education is extremely important in order for a person to be a functioning member of society, they must receive unbiased education, because a biased education is the worst possible thing a person can receive. When a person is exposed to a biased education they take as fact, they are being mislead by biased information and this can lead to people becoming close-minded and ignorant. An example of biased information that has led many astray is Fox News (<http://www.foxnews.com/>), which according to their own rhetoric is a “fair and balanced” bipartisan news network. But when their content is analyzed, it becomes obvious very quickly that they are actually perpetuating far right propaganda and give no thought to liberal ideas. If a person were to be raised there whole life with Fox News as their only source of opinions on current events, they would probably think America is run by a Sharia law loving Muslim monarch who hates republicans and wants America to be a mixture of the Taliban’s Afghanistan and the Stalin’s Russia. While all of that is false and many of those claims are contradictory, that is the conclusion one would probably reach if the only commentary on current events they had was Fox News. But if they had been exposed to more than just Fox News, they would have been able to see the faults in Fox’s argument, and that’s why an unbiased education is important because it presents people with all sides of an argument and allows them to reach their own conclusions. All of forms of education are important but in the end they are meaningless if they are biased, and thus fighting for unbiased education is much more important than fighting for any one form of education.