

My Philosophy of Education

Everyone is different, with varying goals and aspirations at all points in their lives. Some want to settle down, to raise a family, some hope to be rich, some aspire to travel the world, while others desire to change the world. Regardless of what one tries to accomplish in their lives, they will in some way, whether directly or indirectly, be influenced by the education they receive.

Education may be a necessity, or an expectation of society, but it should not be treated as such. If they wanted to, a university student could try to just survive through college, doing as little as possible to pass classes and get the degree. Or, they could make the most of college: being active, involved, and dedicated to having a good and positive experience. It may be the case that, in the end, the degree they receive will be the same, but regardless of this, their life will be very different. So, this leads to the question, what do I truly want to achieve by going to university? “You need to go to college to get a degree, get a job, and become rich and successful”. These are all things and ideas that I’ve heard from others, from those who’ve already finished school as to why it’s necessary to have a solid education. But, maybe the world is trying to be too structured, too straightforward, or too single-minded. The world seems to have only one definition of success, which is to get a degree, get a high-paying, enjoyable job, and to live life.

This is not what education should be about. Like life in general, it should not be just shrugged off, or something that should be powered through. Education should be about the ability to learn, about understanding, and about wanting to know more about the world. University should not just be an obligation, it needs to be an experience. One should not go to university with only the end in sight, trying only to survive between tests, hoping to pass all their classes, hoping for the semester to be over. That is not what education is about, and nothing will truly be learned from cramming, stressing, and only trying to get a good grade. It is true that one’s success is defined predominantly by grades in college, as that is likely what many people only see. But, it should be one’s inventions, thoughts, discussions, and aspirations that truly drive their educational journey.

As for myself, I want to have a similar approach to my own education. Being here in university, it can be very easy to only care about classes, homework, and succeeding on assignments, tests, projects, and finals. By being consistently surrounded by so many others doing the same thing as me, it puts a huge pressure on students to do well, as their success in getting a degree depends on it. To have a better university experience, I will strive to learn, and work to have a passion for what I am learning. I will not just do what is required: I will take classes that interest me rather than those which are easy, and I will apply my knowledge to ambitions and projects outside of class.

Overall, I want education to have a purpose, a lasting effect on my life. As a college student, education is presently at the forefront of my mind. Despite this, I want my education to have an impact that will last, that will not be forgotten, to forever influence the remainder of my life, to a far distant future.