

Essay- Andrew Edgar

Please write and title a 500-700-word essay on the following theme:

Looking back over your high school career, what would your message to your School Board be on improving the education of those who follow you?

Two things I believe school boards should take into consideration to help improve the educational opportunities they offer in the future are uniqueness and enjoyment. School boards must consider the uniqueness of each student. Just as no two administrators or teachers are the same, no two students are the same. Also, school boards should take into consideration the idea that learning needs to be not only meaningful, but enjoyable as well. Students are more inclined to learn a concept in an environment which they enjoy than in one they find irrelevant or bland. If a district understands these two concepts, they can change students' perception of school in a positive way.

To individualize learning, schools can conduct interest inventories on incoming freshmen. This test would divide the students into one of four subgroups of learning: verbal, auditory, kinesthetic, and visual. The results of this inventory would be a record for the teachers to consult if a student struggles in a given class; consulting the results would provide an opportunity for that student to receive the specific help needed based on his or her style of learning. For example, if Phil's chemistry grade slips, his teacher could base individualized instruction on lessons designed for a visual learner (the learning type identified through his learning style inventory). Phil's teacher could develop visual charts and graphs that might better help him understand the concept with which he is struggling. If Phil was a kinesthetic or hands-on learner, his teacher could set up a lab or a model diagram of the concept to help him better understand the material he found most difficult. If students take the initiative to excel or try to advance in a class, I fully believe that school districts should give them the most effective and efficient way to do it, which can be achieved using the results of a learning style inventory test. Isn't this the ultimate goal of education?

Confucius once said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life" (Confucius, n.d.). I believe this to be true in education as well. If the students enjoy school, they will have a better learning experience that will turn into greater learning. There are multiple ways to insert fun into daily educational activities such as the use of documentary film (interactive, digital, high interest) in addition to traditional text. Not only do students find such resources relevant in content and format, practice with them also engages them in digital literacy skills useful in their postsecondary schooling.

Another way to improve the student experience is to offer incentives that don't affect grades. In today's society, school systems are so focused on improving grades and test scores that many students are not learning core material from the lessons. The information goes in one ear and out of the other. Instead, schools should introduce different types of activities that engage the students' brains in other ways. This will keep their minds busy and growing, while at the same time, removing some of the pressure created by grades and test scores.

Overall, schools need to be designed for the students, not for grades or test scores; they need to offer students a safe and fun learning environment which provides multiple learning opportunities. These are just a few ways in which to achieve this goal. If school districts offer students a style of learning with which they connect, it will stay with them and help them in all other areas of life. If at the same time, the

schools use methods which make the school day more enjoyable, they can change students' perspective of school from work to play.

References

Confucius (n.d.). Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. - Confucius - BrainyQuote. Retrieved from <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/c/confucius134717.html>