

The Aims of Education

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Outline I

1. You have no particular necessity to study anything for the next four years
 - 1.1 Game over - you have already won (material sense)
 - 1.2 Major/grades do not help in detail
 - 1.2.1 1 GPA point = 9% in salary
 - 1.2.2 Little relation between course and occupation
 - 1.3 (Elite) college is only one way of developing cognitive skills
 - 1.3.1 Flimsy evidence of effect
 - 1.3.2 Cognitive skills not all that useful (in occupation)
 - 1.3.3 No *lingua franca* to master

Outline II

2. Education is the aim

- 2.1 Allows you to attach more and more complex, profound, extreme meanings to events and phenomena
- 2.2 More, better experiences
- 2.3 Aim of other things
- 2.4 "...the light that assigns meanings..." - Plato



“Thus, I argue that education is good in itself because it expands the range of your experience, both temporally and spatially. Education means figuring out how to arrange the finite things you can know, their varying levels of abstraction and detail, their mix of skill and data, fact and theory, so as to maximize the potential array of meaning that you can experience in the now. Whatever your temporal and spatial present, education lets you live more within it, by bringing more meanings into play, by creating a dialogue of complexity and simplification, of distinction and analogy, that transforms your immediate world and reaches beyond it.”

Outline III

3. Closing remarks

- 3.1 History happens - experience prepares you for it
- 3.2 Social/emotional development - you are on your own
- 3.3 With or without education, you will be happy and you will be successful

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5. Is there are downside to education, as Abbott describes it?
6. Should you want to be educated?