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Lit block Edu 340

Liberal arts

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Liberal arts education spans the vast area of human understanding, covering subjects like history, literature, foreign languages, science, mathematics, philosophy, art and music. To a person who has not had the benefit of such an education, news related to arts, history, literature and information receiving on daily basis would be very likely be interesting and though provoking. It is important for students to get the knowledge of liberal arts so that they can not only succeed as a student but also as a human being with all rounded knowledge. And to become a teacher, we should be able to know lot of things beyond our education classes. We will be teaching the children and we should be able to answer their questions.

Regardless of what a college bound person plans on doing as a profession, whether it is medical, business, or literature that person is going to be faced with a broad liberal arts curriculum during the first years of college's education. I studied my last two years of high school in India, and there we had to decide if we want to go into science or business. Science students didn't have to do anything with Business and vice versa for business students. I was a business student because I didn't want to be in the science field. Some schools had arts and humanities options. Nepal also follows the same education pattern. So the concept of liberal arts was really new to me when I had first come here and if I was studying there then I was left with the option of either going to business or art/humanities. My life changed drastically with the opportunities of what I could do when I got here. With the wide varieties of subjects area from

history, science , philosophy to literature and many teaches us not only to think but to develop strength of mind and ordered intellect and the world becomes understandable.

Studying science almost after two years in college was not that bad after all. In fact it was like a revision. For someone who had only know how the piano, drums and guitar sound, *experiencing the arts* and *music essential* class was indeed hard but what I learned from those classes were a lot. I learned how to play autoharp and flute, even though I not perfect in it but still had an idea. When I watched 'Mona Lisa Smile', Julia Roberts who is an art teacher, while she was teaching her class, she showed some work of different artists and my friend and I knew who those artists were, because we both had taken *experiencing the arts*. It has definitely made me got exposed to the brilliant work of all the artists have done in different time era and appreciate their work. That class was indeed so hard and I didn't really do well in it but what I learned from is the works of great artists.

I have become aware that liberal arts gives a person a better perception of what makes the world around us as it is today- politically, anthropologically or even artistically. A greater understanding of liberal arts has helped me to realize why things are happening in the world today in the way that they are happening; things like racism, biases, and corporate motives. Understanding these issues help in making decisions in life. And become a stronger member of our society, one which is becoming ever more global. I would have been in total darkness if I had not been studying liberal arts. When I went back home last summer, I noticed the difference with my friends because they study only what they field requires.

It has always been my belief that the foundation of a learned person, and not just an educated person, lies in one's understanding and appreciation of liberal arts, be it in or outside of

college boundaries. But it was once I studied subjects under liberal arts in college that I realized that I had been a student of the subject since a long time ago.

As a person preparing to teach children through important years of their lives, I feel the need to have an open but a strong mind. But this applies to any thing I do in life as a whole. The most important thing is that the decisions I make will be based on knowledge and understanding and not just mental blindness and self conceived beliefs.

“Though liberal education has assumed many forms across different times and places, it has always been concerned with important educational aims: cultivating intellectual and ethical judgment, helping students comprehend and negotiate their relationship to the larger world, and preparing graduates for lives of civic responsibility and leadership.”

Manchester College excels at preparing teachers who will be broadly educated, have a strong command of content knowledge and pedagogy, and who are thoughtful and discerning professionals. Any students from any colleges with liberal arts curriculum are active learners, critical thinkers, problem solvers, decision makers, and risk takers. Teacher education students reflect on how they can use their skills learned in across the curriculum to inform when they actually teach the classroom. Students who are exposed to literal arts studies have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful teachers. A liberal arts background prepares students to be informed professionals, capable of synthesizing and using the knowledge they have gained in their classrooms.

Work cited

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