

## **Do You Know too Much?**

Will the information being taught in schools worldwide facilitate our future generations when overcoming endeavors of their own? Are we properly supplying current students with the tools to resolve world issues? In today's society, our school's faculties are flooded with data that is required to be instilled by the teacher into each one of his/her students. However, is all this "education" beneficial in real world situations?

As a college undergraduate, I am constantly overwhelmed with the information being distributed in each class. As the day goes on, my notebooks fill up with lectures that we will reportedly be tested on. From the minute details of particular equations in calculus to the various specific dates in history, each class is filled with statistics that will quickly be forgotten by each and every student upon completion of the course. This depicts the numerous topics covered in class that are irrelevant to the success of our future generations. So why are we being taught this useless information? Shouldn't we be undergoing lessons that will actually be of relevance in our lives?

This thought of mine first derived when I was a senior at my local high school "Trabuco Hills." During my last year in high school, I enrolled in an economics course to obtain a general knowledge of the subject. Although for the majority of the semester it seemed like any other class, full of information that must be recorded and memorized before the test day, we were assigned a very unique Project. My teacher, Mr. Hettig, bestowed a random figurative budget upon each student, and then instructed us to figure out how to survive off of each wage. The instructions include: finding a place to live, type of food one can afford, hours one must work a

week, and way of transportation. For the first time in my life I was given an assignment that enabled me to gain a better understanding of “real-world issues”, reality. Rather than containing anxiety about the overbearing load of schoolwork, reality causes one to fear sleeping in the cold or even starving to death. This project portrayed to me the ignorant views I contained on society due to my lack of knowledge.

Through this I gained a realization that the information taught in school does not satisfy knowledge of issues occurring in neighboring nations. An example of this is displayed by the ongoing feuds between different nations. In particular, the relationship between Israel and Palestine is a perfect illustration of a world issue that our society has failed to resolve. This quarrel between Israel and Palestine has lasted since around the beginning of recorded time. The feud depicts that our education system has failed to produce a civilized society that is evidently unaware of the consequences of the matters at hand. By informing students of the possible consequences, couldn't we produce a sophisticated society that will be capable of rectifying world issues?

On CNN, a documentary was displayed of an interviewer who was questioning Bernie supporters who attended the University of Oregon. He asked each student he came into contact with, “Why are you voting for Bernie?” Some of the responses were simply atrocious. When asked, one student replied that she appreciates Bernie's ideas on demilitarizing the U.S. army. The reporter reminded the undergraduate that ISIS is, and has been a clear threat on the United States, and that attempting to reduce aspects of the army would increase the probability of a terrorist attack. The young woman answered by claiming that the best way to respond to the issue

is to sit down with ISIS and come to a compromise. Through this statement, it is lucid that students at appropriate ages do not contain proper knowledge of political topics. There were numerous other interviews that consisted of the same content, just varying in speech. This documentary made me question the quality of the content of the education that our education system is distributing. Could these problems have been eradicated through educating our children and making them more aware of the society we live in?

Through previous personal observations, it is valid to say that arising adults lack information that will forge the upcoming generations into a more harmonious society; one that will be better able to deal with vital matters that regard the existence of mankind. Throughout our life we accumulate so much knowledge that it comes to a point where a lot of random facts become unnecessary. This is when I ask you to ask yourself if you know too much. The human mind can only hold a certain capacity and by throwing so much information at it our public school education system will not be allow our student to be able of obtaining success because they are failing to supply us with the necessary information that will allow us students to slowly gain complete independence of one. We need to educate our student on the importance of planning, investing, budgeting...ect. With these thoughts driving our force of education students will better understand that complete self dependence is difficult without the right tools to reach success.