

مباراة الدخول الى كلية التربية لطلاب السنة الأولى لشهادة الماستر
للعام الجامعي ٢٠١٣ - ٢٠١٤

مسابقة في الثقافة العامة باللغة الإنكليزية (للمختصين)

مدّة المسابقة : ساعتان

Revisiting the Purpose of Education by Melissa Kelly

In order to create a better educational system, one must revisit the purpose of education. Obviously, students need to learn to read, write, and solve math problems. But beyond that, why should children go to school? Is it to give them something to do? To prepare them for the workforce? To create leaders and thinkers? The answer to these questions holds the key to how schools should work.

Young people who leave school today need to have key skills that many employers and colleges say they are lacking. For one thing, many professions today stress the team concept. However, the skills necessary to work and produce as a team are often lacking in new graduates.

Further, business owners also cite a greater need for problem-solving skills. The fact is that many students graduate without the necessary skills to analyze a problem and come up with possible solutions on their own. These two types of skills are not things that can simply be learned by rote. Instead, they must be modeled and experienced multiple times by students.

The education of the future has to produce students able to work independently or in a team environment. They must be problem solvers and critical thinkers. They must know how to go about learning something new. The majority of facts that students are required to memorize each day in the classroom will not be remembered two weeks later, let alone ten years later. However, if you can teach students the skills to acquire new knowledge on their own and use it to come up with novel solutions to problems they are experiencing, then you have truly done your job as an educator.

This does not mean that content is not important or should not be taught. Students need to learn content from a wide variety of curriculum areas for many reasons. They need to have a shared understanding and background.

And even if students are not going to remember the first 16 elements of the periodical chart, for example, the act of learning them in the first place is very important. With this they will gain an understanding of the periodical chart, its layout, and the elements themselves. When confronted with references to this in future years, they will be able to draw on this foundation of knowledge.

Adaptive Education

For education to work, it has to adapt to the individual student. Instead of focusing on the number of hours a student is in a class, you should be focusing on how well she has mastered the information. Unfortunately, the educational system is created so that a student moves along in lock-step with others through the years. However, some students learn faster and some slower. The fast ones often get bored and the slow ones often get lost.

The bottom of the page features several handwritten signatures and names. On the left, there are three distinct signatures in black ink. To the right, the name 'S. Lounis' is written in a cursive script, followed by another signature that appears to be 'T. Huel'.

In many cases, teachers are asked to determine on their own how to deal with students learning at different rates. They are expected to meet the needs of all the students in their class, no matter where they are in the curriculum. However, this can be very difficult when dealing with 25 to 30 students, daily disruptions, standardized test instruction, and so much more that is thrown their way.

If, instead, system-wide changes were made whereby students would progress through grades based on what they have learned and not what grade they are supposed to be in, then you could truly be giving students an individualized and more effective experience.

Student retention is often a hot-button political issue. The practice of promoting students to the next grade without passing the current one is called "social promotion." Neither retention nor social promotion is a perfect solution to low performance. It's important to learn your school's policy for retention and promotion.

Interactive Education

An effective system of education would provide students with a high level of interactivity. Instead of passive recipients of information they are expected to learn, students should be an integral part of lessons from the beginning. For example, instead of simply teaching students about a topic, a teacher might present students with a challenge that can only be solved by learning about and applying key information. In this way, students learn by helping to frame their experience.

Learning communities are a way that some high schools have attempted to make education more relevant for all students. For example, a school might create a couple of learning communities within their school, and have each focus on different topics. Students get to choose to work within the community that interests them most.

Making It Relevant

Many teachers attempt to make connections between what students are learning and their own day-to-day experiences. However, in order for education to be truly engaging and effective, students need to see a deeper connection between what they are learning and their own lives. Many school districts have attempted to do this by creating magnet schools and academies based on student interests. Many of these have been highly successful, but they do not meet the needs of the majority of students.

Instead, a system needs to be devised that involves as many students as possible in high-interest activities that result in real learning. These activities need to be interdisciplinary and provide students with many different paths to success. By tying learning to real life, students are more likely to be engaged and successful.

Questions:

1. Summarize the main concerns the writer presents and the solutions she suggests. (20pts)
2. According to the writer, why do we need to emphasize team work in education? (20pts)
3. Choose one of the following questions and write a well-organized essay of six paragraphs (including the introduction and the conclusion).
 - a. Discuss effective ways of teaching critical and social skills in your classroom. Provide examples from your experience.
 - b. If you were to apply the system the writer suggests, how would you go about it and what changes would you make to the current school system in Lebanon? (60pts)

