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Preeminent Educational Observations

from Confucius to Summers return to Proposed Education Manifesto Please Share!

Not So Recent			Recent
Treatment of Students	Academic Rigor	Desired Result	Few Good Jobs
"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you don't stop." Confucius "Do not train a child to learn by force of harshness; but direct them to it by what amused their minds so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each." Plato "Try not to have a good time... this is supposed to be educational." Charles M. Schulz "To know how to suggest is the art of teaching." Henri-Frederic Amiel "The better-performing students will be treated much as chess prodigies are today" ... The lesser-performing students will specialize in receiving motivation." Tyler Owen, ***Average is Over*** (2013) 198 See How Children Succeed by Paul Tough 2012 The use of certain educational software programs to help teach reading and math did not lead to higher test scores after a year of implementation, according to a major federal report released April 5. Full Story Authors Note: This is not the first study to reveal that computers do not enhance learning. Like everything, if you really want to know what is going on, "...follow the money."	F.D.R. was neither an outstanding student nor athlete, but he entered enthusiastically into life at Groton and did well enough to go to Harvard in 1900. At Harvard he put much of his energy into his social life and extracurricular activities' Source "I have never let schooling interfere with my education" Mark Twain "Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon." E. M. Forster "...often there is little or no payoff from having a little bit more..." Lester Thurow "Study without desire spoils the memory, and it retains nothing that it takes in." Leonardo da Vinci "Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught." Oscar Wilde "Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results." John Dewey "The problem is not the content of textbooks, but the very idea of them." Sam Weinberg	The most important thing about education is appetite. Winston Churchill "...Strengthening values also demands a national commitment to excellence in education. **Ronald Reagan** "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." Robert Frost "The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." Plutarch "Education is no substitute for intelligence." Frank Herbert "A capacity, and taste, for reading, gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems. And not only so. It gives a relish, and facility, for successfully pursuing the [yet] unsolved ones." Abraham Lincoln The older I grow, the more I am convinced that there is no education which one can get from books and costly apparatus that is equal to that which can be gotten from contact with great men and women. Booker T. Washington	"...the idea that you can just have better training and then there are all these jobs, all these places where there are shortages and we just need the trained people is fundamentally an evasion." " The core problem is that there aren't enough jobs. If you help some people, you could help them get the jobs, but then someone else won't get the jobs. " Lawrence Summers, The Future of Work (2015) "Delivering literacy--even on the high level appropriate to a knowledge society--will be an easier task than giving students the capacity and the knowledge to keep on learning, and the desire to do it."... "All it requires is to make learners achieve. All it requires is to focus on the strengths and talents of learners so that they excel in whatever it is they do well." " But schools do not do it. They focus instead on a learner's weaknesses." P. Drucker, The New Realities (1989) 236 "Not all students need programming but they need to easily make the most of technology." Tyler Cowen, Average is Over(2013) technology. He sees educators as motivators and online managers rather than as a professor." See VI. of **Tech-based education**
"Despite all the ruminations about 'skills bias' in the patterns of technological change, there is no such [skills] shortage. To the contrary, our economy is full of highly technical and skilled people. It remains short of jobs for those people, as every college counselor and every coordinator of a training program knows." J. K. Galbraith, Created Unequal: The Crisis in American Pay (2000) 208.	Epilog "In 1914, John Alexander Smith, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Oxford, addressed the first session of his two-year lecture course as follows: 'Gentlemen, you are now about to embark on a course of studies that (will) form a noble adventure…Let me make this clear to you. ..nothing that you will learn in the course of your studies will be of the slightest	possible use to you in after life – save only this – that if you work hard and intelligently, you should be able to detect when a man is talking rot, and that, in my view, is the main, if not the sole purpose of education.' ...quote reminds me of the famous Joan Robinson line: 'The purpose of studying economics is not to acquire a set of ready-made answers to economic	questions, but to learn how to avoid being deceived by economists.' "Barry Ritholtz, The Sole Purpose of Education (2010)