

Unit 1 Writing Assignment

The subject of education is one that many people share a wide array of thoughts about. An ongoing debate on the topic of education is whether traditional or modern education is the best approach for students' learning. This debate is specifically seen in the contrasting views of John Dewey's "My Pedagogic Creed" and E.D. Hirsch Jr.'s "Why Traditional Education is Progressive."

In John Dewey's "My Pedagogic Creed," education is a reflection of the person involved; for example, the way a teacher approaches and acts in life translates to how they might approach education. Much of education is learned when a student implements what they gathered from their education and puts it to good use in everyday/real life scenarios. Dewey emphasizes his belief of education with two effects of the education process: psychological and sociological. The psychological component includes how they grow and their instincts. The sociological component includes social conditions.

Another important part of education is knowing your student. The power of a child is often two fold, or even multifaceted, but sometimes only one component is shown of the student. When Dewey talks about the power of a child, he believes that there is a start and end point with each child and that knowing about the child's psychology is vital. It is essential to continue to monitor the child as he/she progresses.

Next, school is an important learning space for the student and affects their education. The way a student is expected to act is mimicked by everyday life too. For example, if a student acts up at school for attention, similar behavior will be seen at home. It can be seen as vice versa as well; if there is a behavior picked up at home, it might also be displayed at school too. Morals are often created at home, but reinforced and expanded at school.

The modern approach of education attempts to use life experiences and subjects that should be more relevant to students' lives. Education itself and the people in it can mold the idea of education into how they want it to be perceived. Modern education allows flexibility for the teachers to decide and alter how they want to approach education. This also means that this approach is more individualized for each and every student.

The social element is crucial to subject matter. Within the social element, social life skills are underutilized and common knowledge connects to development of students. Development of learning plays a role in education; where those that believe in the modern theory of education think that visual learning with pictorial evidence is beneficial because it provides a more relatable idea to the student.

Taking a look at the contrasting view, E.D. Hirsch Jr.'s "Traditional Education is Progressive," Hirsch expresses that progressive education is bad; especially for minority students. Hirsch explains that conservative education is good because studies have shown that those that have followed Gramsci, one who a proponent of tradition education have shown improvement amongst the lower classes.

One large component of Hirsch's work explains that the differing views of traditional and modern education are all flawed and misleading at the very least. These views of traditional versus modern, verbal versus hands on, boring versus interesting, have not seen the data that most people believe that we have seen from the modern education. Studies have actually shown

that progressive and modern approaches have been seen as less effective. The modern approach provides new and innovative ideas; but when implemented haven't seen positive results. The approach might engage students in the short term, but just because they are engaged and interested in the lesson in the moment does not mean that they will retain the information in the long term.

Even though the modern approach is seen as the more appealing approach to students when they are learning, Hirsch argues that a good teacher can always find a way to make any topic engaging and interesting; while still maintaining the traditional approach of education. Unfortunately, the idea of individualizing learning for students is bad. For example, if a classroom uses the modern approach, a teacher only gets to a limited amount of time with selected students, meaning that others struggle to do work on their own while the teacher only gets to a few students.

Looking at each view, educators and researchers are continuing to collect the data to see which approach will be most effective. Both Dewey and Hirsch make strong points in identifying the pros and cons of each approach in education.