“Educated”

While reading the memoir and coming across the words “Who writes history? I do.”, the first thought that came to mind was, “What is a Bonnie? I am.” Sometimes all it takes to achieve success is to take matters into one’s own hands. An instinct has the potential to take anyone far, but education can open unimaginable doors. There has never been a truer statement than “you learn something new every day.” In fact, sometimes it is the days where you supposedly do nothing when you learn the most.

When children are moving along in their first few years of life, learning is experienced by watching, listening, tasting, and touching, where the primary influencers are the parental figures. As life jolts onward, learning becomes more of a choice, and I believe that the key to achieving success is the desire to learn, rather than just continuing with the motions of learning. The benefit here is the true absorption and retention of material. From the book Educated by Tara Westover, the impact and importance of education becomes evident. This may include many sacrifices and require a lot of financial, emotional and intellectual support, but the potential that comes afterwards is unrestrained.

To my family, education is liberation. My parents were the first in their families to get a graduate education and move to the United States. They showed my sister and me what perseverance and devotion actually means. Now as I enter the higher level education of college, I have gotten to experience the way that education influences, and is influenced, by ambition and passion. Based on the childhood that I know, going to school is expected to be as easy as taking a breath of fresh air. It is true that I never felt a lack of support and motivation, but as shown in the memoir, that is not everyone’s story. There are many people who are not fortunate enough or choose not to get the experience of school, where students get the opportunity to develop by interacting and building a relationship with their teachers and peers.

Some skilled trade workers may say that their self-sufficient lifestyle does not require or have time for school. But in my opinion, they undergo a different kind of “education” in order to provide for their families. For example, their teachers may be their parents or other family members, and their classroom may be the open field or a barn. Their disparate education consists of advice, stories, recipes, etc. Some people are happy not going to school, and some, like Tara Westover, crave the ability to explore new information.

Although I believe that there are other avenues for people to become educated, my personal choice is to go to college and seek higher education in the field of medicine. Therefore, I chose
St. Bonaventure as my future pathway. College has the potential to spark reform in a community and the potential to inspire people to chase their dreams. It has the power to bring together like-minded, yet diverse, people. It forces you to be independent and make decisions that affect your whole life. In the book, Tara Westover writes about reading books written by Mormon prophets, the only books her father would allow, and says, “I read them to learn what to think, not how to think for myself,” (239). But after attending school, she was exposed to different human behaviors and personalities through reading, writing and listening, which broadened the horizons of her brain and future. College is meant for not only obtaining knowledge but also wisdom, learning the art of observation, and understanding tolerance of others. It is about growing, much like a seed that needs lots of water and sunlight, or in other words, time and effort. One can be so easily manipulated by ignorance, but instead, attending college can open a new realm of knowledge and curiosity. Therefore, being educated means challenging your view of normalcy and pursuing things that make you wonder.

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