

Dear all,

I am currently writing to you in the form of a speech rather than a letter or an essay. This is because I can apply myself in an almost 'professional' element with a bit of my personality. A bit of me...

Firstly, I will formally introduce myself as Sherzard, a musician, music producer and young entrepreneur from the Midlands. I was today years old when I found out I'm a second generation immigrant- so much so for reading Chapter 3 in Arts in Schools. To me this had no significance upon my life until I read and contextualised everything that was said. And in my 17 years of living, I have encountered many experiences where I'd often be deprived of arts subjects, where the only form of creative activity was singing hymns in assembly. I got into music through the help of my mum. She bought me a keyboard and I started to learn mostly by myself, practising songs I liked and in the end improvising and creating my own. Later down the line, this turned into producing tracks applying skills that I had learnt. Notice the word apply. Such a broad term yet is so convenient in every task we do. Which brings me to my points in discussion. What I found outstanding was inclusivity in peoples perceptions throughout the text, offering ways to enrich freethinking and initiative. Throughout this I will be sharing my thoughts on: the types of intelligence, creativity, culture and changes that have yet to be made in the current curriculum.

I want to start this off by asking what does intelligence mean to you? I want you to guess how many types of intelligence there are? And if you can get that one right, name a few! Scientifically speaking, there are 8 types of intelligence ranging from Logical, Interpersonal, to Musical Intelligence. Now, I will get onto how creative types of intelligence optimise learning with what we already know. We have two modes of consciousness, the left controlling reading, writing and calculations, with the right in charge of problem solving, memory and creativity. The education system ultimately focuses on developing the left side rather than both. In fact, if we nurture both hemispheres it makes it easier to learn and absorb new information. In my experience, school is very much a 'one way street'. You study, you revise, get the grades and move onto the next step in higher education. But I'd like to address the current issue with this. What if certain students don't want to go down the more academic route? What if they decide to become an actress or musician? How will the current curriculum facilitate towards these types of students. Education covers many forms and shouldn't be limited to just academia. People's perceptions are evolving now that they believe that you don't have to go to university to obtain the career you want or that a career in the arts is just a hobby. The arts is simply not taken seriously, including the process in the way it's taught in all institutions. What I also find frustrating is schools basing your worth off a grade requirement for a subject. Some students may find difficulty in understanding the subject due to the way they were taught. But shouldn't it be their work ethic, their passion and time to be judged?

Furthermore, I think creativity shouldn't be bound by a specific 'type of intelligence' as it limits the entirety of it. Creativity is offering new perspectives, putting you in the front seat of your own imagination rather than submitting to what someone else thinks or says. It doesn't make sense to talk about it in a general capacity simply as it's infinite and shouldn't be marginalised to what's deemed right and wrong. Schools should embrace a student's creativity through whatever outlet they desire because it makes them feel understood and paid attention to, not just another grade statistic. It's a language which many people share through Art, Music, Literature, Dance, Food and more.

Reading Chapter 3 has cultivated my shift in perspective through adapting cultural understanding to other peoples experiences. It's amazing to see how every individual, no

matter their age, voices their opinion which can often change other people's realities. The details within the text highlight the importance of education in the arts through various case studies conducted on the way students show their willingness to learn. In order to prosper in a skill, subject or topic you have to be in the environment where it is nurtured the most. A prime example, in my case, is music production. In order to be more experienced in becoming a producer, I'd have to go to a music studio, setup the equipment and build on a creative idea through melodies and rhythm. This promotes an increase in productivity as I'm not in a classroom environment with a music teacher who has no experience in music production. Overall, this shapes the way I educate myself. Imagine if you adapted your acting skills to an English lesson. The skills you could use would be voicing your own opinions, articulating your words, explaining points well and thinking on the spot. If we only attend to the left side of our brain, we're tapping into half our capabilities if we don't attend to the right hemisphere- creativity.

Like Peter Brinson said, 'the world is changing' and as a millennial I can see rapid growth in changes to technology, multi-cultural society, employment, the economy, forms of communication and so much more. But the context behind why we needed more attention to the arts and changes to the curriculum was because of the increasing numbers of unemployment within the youth which, to date, leads the public to believe there were faults in the education system. I still believe to this day, the way we are educated is so controlled and linear to a one way of thinking that if we decide to 'think out of' or even 'use the box' we doubt ourselves. I truly believe the education system can do more about this. The system is designed to produce employees to appeal to the corporate world and other industries. School should be catered in a way where students are passionate to learn but what I've seen is often depressed, unmotivated students who don't particularly feel like they're interested in a subject. I don't blame them. That used to be me. I'd often question why my 'intelligence' was quoted down on a piece of paper for others to question it to and the fact of the matter is even though my grades were outstanding, they still meant nothing to me. Being in the music and entertainments industry has taught me one thing. Self education, independence and networking will get you very far compared to if you were to take a more 'traditional route' of going through the education system, applying for jobs in the hopes of being selected. This can automatically be applied to any industry, especially in business and technology.

To summarise, there are so many resources to use nowadays that weren't available back then. The Internet is used to search for free courses, youtube and online seminars connecting billions of people around the world. So why submit to an education system where all they teach you is the difference between right and wrong, good and bad and their version of success and failure? After all, true success prospers in one's development and self education.

Now I will leave you with a composition that I've made to show my endless creativity and musical intelligence.

Thank you for listening,

Speech by Sherzard Diaz Saad