

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

By Lucy

INTRODUCTION

Think of an average twelve year old girl. This girl can't stand school, and only because she is failing at it. Many think she is failing at it because she is dumb, stupid or slow. Now, she has started to think that too. But no one knows that she is not dumb, stupid or slow, she is just not able to learn traditionally and that is the way her school has taught her.

So imagine a twelve year old girl who think that thinks she will never succeed, because she is doing poorly in school. Now imagine if this girl was told or realized that it was simply just the way she learned and that she would go to college someday and become successful business woman if she was taught in the right way. However if not, she will most likely end up living in her parents' basement while she lives off of them for food and money. This is exactly why she must rely and fight for progressive education to help her succeed.

Progressive education is a new way of learning that is more interactive and meets the needs of various learners. The traditional type of learning may work for many students but it does not work for some and these people are not learning in some or all subjects.

Progressive education is largely important to the United States, because many of the children in our country are falling behind in school. For example, statistics show that 48% of schools in the United States did not show enough progress to meet government standards And nearly 1.1 million students drop out of school each year and 2 out of 3 eighth graders can't read properly. This must change and I am trying to call for change by drawing attention to the need for more progressive education.

EXPLAIN THE ISSUE

I am researching progressive education, I have learnt that Finland has one of the best education systems in the world, I have also learnt that they are using progressive education. In many of the

articles I have read they say that the United States should also be using Progressive education much more than we already do. The United States is number eighteen on the list for the best education systems in the world while Finland was number six. out of twenty-three Since 1983, over 10 million Americans have reached 12th grade without having learned to read at a basic level. I am trying to change this, by drawing attention to this issue.

Progressive education is in places like Italy, United Kingdom, Australia and Finland. The United Kingdom was number three on the ranking. In the United States this issue is huge because in some place people would be lucky to have school, never mind how they teach it. The New York city government has been spending more and more on the education system so that shows that they are clearly trying to make a difference in the education and the way we learn.

People are saying many different things about progressive education but this is some of the examples. Many people say that progressive education will create well rounded kids and would increase critical thinking and people also say that they love progressive education and they also love how the schools that their children went to had “out of the box thinking” and no grades or homework. But others say that if you embrace progressive education you will end up disappointed. Even though the government is spending more and more on the education systems each year the government is still exploiting progressive education and the school systems by not dedicating more money and time to our school systems. If they did this they could help the United States school system and all the children that are failing at it.

CURRENT EVENTS

Many teachers love progressive education and use it in their classroom. For example some schools that use progressive education include: The Putney School in Vermont, Ethical Culture Fieldston School in the Bronx and the Wingra school near Vermont. This is one of the big things happening in progressive education, just using progressive education like these schools. The worst thing happening in progressive learning right now is not using progressive methods, This continues to hurt childrens learning. If children can't learn learn they believe that they are not smart because they may not have any other way to learn. 30 years ago our country had the largest graduation rate and now we are are number 18 on that list out of 23. One reason for the drop is the lack of progressive education. If more students can learn in more creative, hands-on, inquiry-based ways we would have less dropouts and more students who felt successful at school. Imagine the changes they would be able to make in their lives.

Also, if the 1.8 million high school dropouts had graduated in 2010 we would have seen \$337 billion more in earnings in the course of their lifetime, this would help the economy. Can you imagine the money we are losing in the future and the money we have lost in the past?

Not everyone likes progressive education and not everyone ever will but the majority can be persuaded. There are many website that show their dislike for progressive education, but there are also websites that show there love progressive education. This is what I am trying to promote, love for progressive education.

METHODS OF CHANGE

Currently there are not many progressive education organizations but there are plenty of organizations for education in general. There are two organizations I will be talking about the first one is DonorsChoose a global/local organization that gives teachers a chance to show things that they need to help the students thrive, but can't afford, like supplies or a field trip. Teachers go to the Donorschoose website and tell others exactly what they need and the reasons why. The various donors can choose what speaks out to them the most and then they can can also choose how much

they would like to donate. Teachers can help promote progressive education by asking for technology that students can use to experience learning or ask for any form of progressive education. The second organization is pencils of Promise, Pencils of Promise gives kids around the world quality education, by building schools for students, so that they can grow up to be quality women and men. For progressive education to happen they first must have access to a school.

What are Middle school students in the United States doing to help education problems? Many student around the United states have helped Africa to make sure they have proper education and India to help women get the right to school. But this is a difficult question for me because progressive education is mostly about changing the way we learn in the United States, so its hard to find ways that Middle school students have helped themselves with the way they learn. Children around the united states have donated plenty of school supplies to kids living in poverty that can barely afford to go to school or have donated money to charities who can help. This is a great first step. You can help by going these organization websites and donating to the education of tomorrow. Also once more children are taught using progressive methods they can help promote it too.

CALL FOR ACTION

Has this report inspired you to do something?

Organization	How you can help?	Contact information
Donorschoose	All you have to do is choose a project that speaks out to you and then donate a sufficient amount of money..	http://www.donorschoose.org/
Pencils of Promise	This organization believes that everyone should have quality education. So they build school buildings for the less fortunate.	http://pencilsofpromise.org/

Room to read	Helps kids in countries like India, Cambodia and south Africa have access to books.	http://www.roomtoread.org/
Everybody Wins!	Volunteers come in and sit down with the students for an hour and just help them read.	http://everybodywinsny.org/
LitWorld	A global organization that teaches kids how to read and write.	http://www.litworld.org/

I want to get the information about the importance of progressive education to all families and students. I may consider creating a booklet, flyer, or a website. My mother is a runner, so next time she is in a race, I may ask her to run for progressive education. I also enjoy drawing. So, I could make a bunch of drawings and ask others who like to draw to make images, too. We can use those images to help make posters to promote progressive education.

CONCLUSION

In this report, I have tried to show you that progressive education is needed in the United States and around the world. This report shows ways that you can help, what people think of progressive education and just proves in general that you should help. I would really appreciate if you spent time help the children of donated to one of the provided organizations or find one on your own. It is so easy to save a child's future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U>

National Association of Independent Schools

<http://www.wingraschool.org/who/progressive.htm>

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<http://www.alfiekohn.org/teaching/progressive.htm>