Personal Essay- Issue of Importance

Art is influential. An artist possesses the ability to create beauty where there was none before. Words are simply letters clumped together, but when one stumbles through the phonics of Shakespeare, he has the potential to pronounce audibly what another man envisioned so long ago.

Art is eternal. When individuals see paint on a canvas, they have the opportunity to witness the world as another human being so different from their selves once viewed it. A patron at the Museum of Modern Art in New York is not simply staring at paint, but instead may be viewing the stars of 1889 that Van Gogh felt deserved a moment of his time.

Art is applicable. Though no one can know the exact thoughts Bach had as he composed his *Chaconne*, people can still sense sorrow throughout the piece. Individuals relate to music because they hear their insecurities and passions within the melodies.

Art teaches empathy and humility. Art encourages exploration of one’s self, one’s abilities, and limits. Art can be an incredibly powerful tool for self-discovery. This is why I believe it is extremely important to keep fine arts widely available for children in their public schools.

I was privileged to attend a high school with a budget that was able to support its fine arts programs. It was clear however, that financially the theatre, music, and art programs were not recognized or funded as generously as the sports programs. I realize that in light of funding cuts from state governments, many students do not receive the same opportunities as I did in having the ability to participate in several art forms. Many students in public schools, both primary and secondary, are stripped of a very effective outlet for expression. Instead, children have lectures taking up the whole school day. Public schools should be less worried about their students’ test grades and more worried about their students’ well-being.

In order to receive a well-rounded education, a student must have variety in their day. Art is educational but also involving. Art classes encourage students to use their imagination. If a child’s imagination is suppressed by facts all day long, they may never learn to apply their knowledge in the real world. Theatre, music, and art classes taught me math, history, language arts; but more importantly they taught me how to apply my mathematical, historical, and linguistic knowledge to a particular skill. Music theory taught me how to use math to my advantage when sight reading a classical piece. Theatre helped me pronounce words more smoothly. Art class taught me how the history of the world affected people’s humanity.

Teaching at a pre-school, I have seen first-hand how beneficial the arts can be on one’s education. While rehearsing for a play, the children learn the importance of team-work. They are also allowed to exhibit independence when discovering who it is they are playing. The children experience empathy in exploring their character’s thoughts and feelings. These traits a child develops by participating in an art form will help them flourish in which ever work environment they choose in the future.

I find it unsettling that such a huge benefit to a child’s education and character is the first item to be erased from their school. It is important for future generations that art is always offered. Art gives a child something to look forward to during the school day, and something to appreciate. It is a hope of mine that no aspect of a child’s education will be cut; not from academic classes, physical activities, nor art programs. Every child has the right to a well-versed education. It is important for equal opportunities to be offered to every student. All children should be encouraged to explore their minds, create something new, and express themselves through whatever outlet they choose.