



Every student body invariably has a few students who attend school simply because it is a necessary step on the way to future financial security. They are the detached types who plan to coast through high school, scrape through college, and then walk into a well-paying job, preferably something on the order of President of U.S. Steel. To them, high school studies merit only the minimum of brain power and the maximum of non-involvement, and this is exactly what they give to them. They are unaware of the injustice they are doing education and themselves.

High school education does not wish to stuff a student full of useless facts and figures. Rather, education should promote the discovery of self, the channeling of interests, and the exchange of ideas. Even the best student will eventually forget the French verbs and the dates he learned in U.S. History II; but the intellectual curiosity that schooling awoke and stimulated will, hopefully, remain with him the rest of his life.

Education is concerned more with giving a student a mental attitude—the wish to understand—than in teaching facts and formulas. The student can afford to forego some of the facts, but if he discards the intellectual curiosity that school helps to arouse, he discards much of the pleasure and meaning of life.