

Who are you and what are you most curious about?

This semester has truly been an enlightening semester (pun intended). Not only have I been provoked to think about the Enlightenment thinkers and their respective writings, but I have also connected it to the other facets of life. This is a pretty significant year in the political world due to the presidential election, which is unprecedented for several reasons. Furthermore, issues like the complicated bureaucracy, partisan divide, and meaningless controversies further complicate the process.

Instead of talking about multiple areas I am interested in and connecting them through brief narratives, I want to talk about the idea that has compelled me the most—the education system. Previously, I have held several beliefs about the education system and over time, these beliefs have turned into rants. This semester, though, I observed that the writings of the various thinkers that have had an impact on society started from a rant. All of them observed a problem in the society and approached it in several ways. Hobbes approached it from a political science point of view. Locke was similar but had some major and influential differences. Rousseau conveyed his idea through a string of stories, while Voltaire, in fact, did write a novel to convey his beliefs. The overall patterns of most of the writings was similar—to project a problem, convey what is going wrong, propose a possible solution, and deliberate on its pros and cons. The trend in their writings caused me to think about how to think and write more on the education system.

The repetitive news about the cuts in public education has been agitating. It has aggravated the already dire situation that exists within the system. The following is what I have thought about in this past semester:

Over the summer, I will read several books by famous authors on the education system to think on the different perspectives individuals hold on this issue. Then, I intend to write a “Treatise on the State of the Education System and Its Future.” Like the thinkers, I will divide this in a few different parts: (1) The motivation of learning, (2) exploring problems facing different education systems around the world (including ours) and their pros and cons, (3) possible solutions to the problem by proposing a utopian view (or views) of a perfect education system.

In the process, I would like to ponder about other relating questions like

Is this utopian view possible to achieve? If yes, how? How does the administration and faculty relationship better this system? How can the students contribute? How do government officials and their policies need to change? Is this system practical?

Overall, this is the major idea that is revolving in my head right now. I have an optimistic view of this world and of humanity. Even though a significant change might be slow or it might not even happen, it is still worth a try. This is the time and age for change, and I am surrounded with the best professors, school, and tools for it. If I can provide for the betterment

of others with something I believe in, then I would like to do so, or at least attempt to try. So far, I have only complained. After this semester, I have the desire and self-belief to go in the system to change it.