

How Schooling Obscures the Life of the Mind

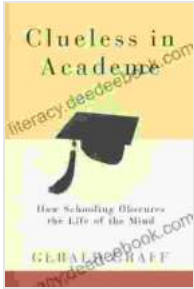


Schooling is often seen as the key to success in life. But what if it's actually doing more harm than good? In this essay, I will argue that schooling obscures the life of the mind. By focusing on grades, tests, and other external measures of success, schooling teaches students to value conformity and superficiality over critical thinking and creativity. As a result, schooling stifles the development of the intellectual curiosity and passion that are essential for a truly fulfilling life.

Clueless in Academe: How Schooling Obscures the Life of the Mind by Gerald Graff

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 901 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 320 pages



The Problem with Schooling

There are a number of problems with schooling that make it an obstacle to the life of the mind. First, schooling is too focused on grades and tests. Students are constantly being evaluated and ranked, which creates a climate of fear and anxiety. This makes it difficult for students to take risks and explore new ideas. They are more likely to focus on memorizing facts and regurgitating information than on developing their own ideas and perspectives.

Second, schooling is too often authoritarian. Students are expected to obey their teachers and follow the rules without question. This stifles creativity and independent thought. Students learn to defer to authority rather than to think for themselves.

Third, schooling is too narrow. The curriculum is often limited to a few core subjects, such as math, science, and English. This leaves little time for students to explore other interests or to develop their own passions. As a result, students graduate from school with a narrow and superficial understanding of the world.

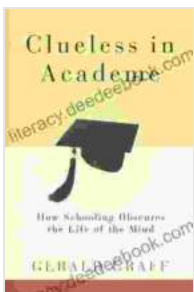
The Importance of the Life of the Mind

The life of the mind is essential for a fulfilling life. It allows us to explore our own thoughts and feelings, to understand the world around us, and to make meaningful connections with others. The life of the mind is also essential for creativity and innovation. It is through the free exploration of ideas that we come up with new solutions to problems and new ways of seeing the world.

Schooling can play a valuable role in the development of the life of the mind. But only if it is done in a way that encourages critical thinking, creativity, and independent thought. Unfortunately, the current system of schooling often does the opposite. It stifles curiosity, discourages creativity, and teaches students to value conformity over originality.

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We need to rethink the way we educate our children. We need to put more emphasis on the life of the mind and less on grades and test scores. We need to create a learning environment that encourages critical thinking, creativity, and independent thought. Only then will we be able to develop the kind of citizens who are capable of solving the challenges of the 21st century.



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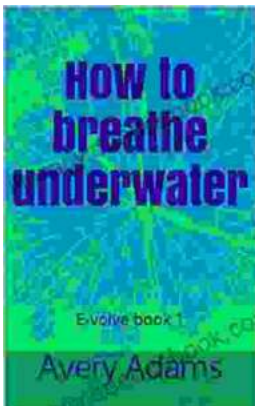
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