O'level
Foundation
Week 15

The Write Tribe

COMPO PLANNING

Composition Topic

Does school prepare students for the real world?

Yes	No

The Write Tribe

LIVEWORKSHEETS

NO! It does not prepare students for the real world

Millennials are unfamiliar with a broad range of life skills. They are less likely than older generations to know how to sew, make basic home repairs, or drive manual-transmission cars. With GPS always at their fingertips, many never really learned to use physical landmarks to guide them. Some can't even imagine how people functioned before mobile IT.

After surveying 502 women, researchers at the University of Missouri found that Baby Boomers reported a greater ability to sew, hem, repair buttons and clean laundry, while those in the 18 to 33 age range reported significantly lower mastery of these basic maintenance skills.

1. Critical life skills are not taught

As Forbes columnist Larissa Faw reports, most Millennial drivers don't know how to check their tire pressure and only half have read their car's owner manual.

Millenials can't cook!

They're also driving the rise of "grocerants": grocery stores that provide ready-made meals. Fully 78% of Millennials have purchased these prepared foods in the past 30 days, compared to 68% of Xers, 60% of Boomers, and 57% of Silent.

Instead of learning critical life skills on how to manage money, how to negotiate, or how to communicate, kids are mostly taught to memorize information. This is helpful to learn, but not at the cost of not learning critical life skills.

One Minnesota high schooler recently argued that her curriculum should have included cooking, car repair, and budgeting. An emphasis on practical skills could even pay off in the workplace: The wages of high-skill, blue-collar positions are starting to rise rapidly.

Classes for important life skills — money management, interpersonal communication, miscellaneous psychology, habits, goals, etc.
Incorporation into existing classes — in math, talk about smart credit card usage to avoid freaking 18% interest rates, how to build credit, how to pick the right health insurance, why new cars are a horrible investment, etc.
Start teaching this sooner than college. Not everyone goes to college, but everyone needs to know this stuff.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

NO! It does not prepare students for the real world!

In 2011, 1.5 million, or **53.6%** of college grads under age 25 were out of work or underemployed.
And for those that do have jobs? **48%** of employed U.S. college grads are in jobs that require less than a four-year degree.
30% of college graduates don't feel college prepared them for the world of work.

2. School focuses on memorization instead of hands-on skills

EXAM

How were the young prepared in the past?

It used to be that apprenticeships were the norm; you'd learn the hands-on skills and expertise from a mature worker in your field. The downside was that back then, it was more like, "Hey kid, you're going to be a carpenter because that's what your family has always done." Today we have more choices, but with it has come an inferior form of learning. Most professions, even today's digitally-based jobs, need hands-on training and mentorship. Programming boot camps are popping up, showing how horrible the current school model is. In 2-3 months, 90% or more of graduates have a job making more than $80,000 a year (within just a few months of graduation).

Theoretical Learning vs. Practical Learning

Apprenticeships offer a much higher level of practical learning; students are fully immersed in their particular project on a daily basis. Apprenticeships also offer learners a thorough understanding of job expectations, hours and physical demands. Upon completion of their apprenticeship, they will usually have a realistic idea of what to expect when going off on their own. Classroom-based learning don't traditionally offer this level of immersion.

GRADES DISTORT OUR REALITY

School trains us to have the mindset that a given amount of effort will always bring a measurable, predictable, and successful result. The real world doesn't work like that.

Stephen King probably still has his huge stack of publisher rejection slips.

Colonel Sanders had 1,009 rejections he received for his chicken recipe before the first yes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

NO! It does not prepare students for the real world!

Depression on the rise!

Symptoms of depression increased from 9 percent to almost 15 percent between 2005 and 2015 — the years of each group's respective check-in — while reported self-harm increased from almost 12 percent to more than 14 percent.

What's more, the younger millennials reported lower overall risk factors such as smoking (3 percent compared to 9 percent) and drinking alcohol (43 percent versus 52 percent), as well as fewer anti-social behaviors (28 percent versus 40 percent).

3. School does not teach to cope with emotions

Why EQ (Emotional Quotient) matters?

Research states that Emotional Intelligence is responsible for 58% of your job performance and that 90% of top performers have a high EQ. Emotional Quotient (EQ) is as important as Intelligence Quotient (IQ).

Kids are often taught to ignore or cover over their emotions.
Many Western societies view emotions as an indulgence or distraction, says University of California-Santa Barbara sociologist Thomas Scheff, a proponent of emotional education.

Why do emotions matter? Research has found that people who are emotionally skilled perform better in school, have better relationships, and engage less frequently in unhealthy behaviors. Plus, as more and more jobs are becoming mechanized, so-called soft skills — which include persistence, stress management and communication — are seen as a way to make humans irreplaceable by machine.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

NO! It does not prepare students for the real world!

QUIZ TIME!

1. What is an apprenticeship?

a. learning from someone who has already experience

b. doing a test after studying a topic from a book

2. Colonel Sanders's chicken recipe was rejected 1009 time

a. true

b. false

3. Stephen King is a famous

a. engineer

b. author

4. Stephen King never faced rejection.

a. true

b. false

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. College graduates are always guaranteed a job.

a. true

b. false

6. Apprenticeship-based programming boot camps have proven that they are more effective than traditional schooling for programmers.

a. true

b. false

7. What does EQ stand for?

a. emotional quotient

b. equal quadrant

c. Intelligence quotient

8. 90% of top performers at work have a high EQ.

a. true

b. false

9. Is IQ more important than EQ.

a. No, they are equally important.

b. Yes, only IQ matters.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

YES! It does prepare students for the real world!

1. Deadlines for school assignments prepare students for real life

DEADLINES: Teach students how to manage different areas of life

When you graduate from high school, you'll still be expected to meet deadlines, and many of them will overlap, like paying your electric bill, phone bill, and rent all on the same day, or finishing a project at work the same day as your family is supposed to come into town so you have to get things ready for them. Life is full of deadlines, and knowing how to balance them to complete tasks on time is an invaluable skill.

DEADLINES: Creates good work ethic in students

Work ethic is determination and dedication to a job. Employers are always looking for workers with a good work ethic. **Deadlines** are used in the **workplace** so that businesses can maintain momentum and remain productive at a constant rate. Regardless of where we **work** or what we do, each **workplace** is going to have **deadlines**. Being able to finish our tasks on time is crucial to organizational productivity and effective time management. School prepares students for the future with various deadlines. It teaches them the importance of determination and dedication to complete a project.

DEADLINES: Teaches time management

School project deadlines teach student to divide their work into milestones, create a schedule and complete the project with the desired level of dedication and commitment. This teaches them time management. They also face consequences when they don't complete the tasks on time, much like in real life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

YES! It does prepare students for the real world!

2. School teaches teamwork

School projects exposes us to different personalities.
A classroom is a mixed bag of personalities. You deal with children from all kinds of backgrounds. This is very similar to the real world. You may not like your manager but you still need to work with him or her. You often don't get to choose the people you want to work with. School projects is like a trial-run to real life projects.

School projects teaches negotiation skills
Few jobs today don't involve working with others in teams. Much of the dislike of group projects comes from students not trusting their peers to pull their weight and place an equal amount of time and effort into the work. These problems help students learn how to communicate effectively with one another, negotiate, mediate and solve any unhealthy dynamic. It also teaches students how to take constructive criticism from one another without harboring ill feelings. All these skills make them competent in the work place.

School projects teaches students how to be an effective team player
Everyone wants to be a leader. However, in the real world you often have to prove to be an effective team player before you become a leader. By learning to be supportive of one another's idea, contributing and bringing ideas to fruition, students learn to be good team players.

In today's knowledge economy, most of our jobs involve interacting with others that are not even in the same line of profession. The need for effective teamwork is critical for any business.
The ability to simultaneously perform as an individual and together with your colleagues or your employees, in effective teamwork is key to attaining growth and success.
Steve Jobs changed the whole pattern of living with his innovative and creative mind. However, without his team of hard-working professionals and their abilities, his innovations would not have reached the hands of so many people around the world.

LIVEWORKSHEETS