The Tie that Binds Success of a Democracy…an Education in the Liberal Arts

Basic understanding of the topics to be discussed is empirical to convey the association. Following is a rudimentary explanation of democratic principles and liberal arts. A key aspect of a successful democracy is citizen participation. Only through that can there be assurance that the other basic principles of democracy are being carried out. The root word in Greek actually means people. In a democracy civic responsibilities are imperative contributions of all people for success. A primary goal of a democracy is to cherish and insure human freedom. A democracy protects basic human rights like life itself, liberties including freedom of speech and religion, protection under the law of the land, and equal opportunity in pursuit of education and economics. However, to whom much is given much is required. Citizens within a democratic society have the responsibility of participation within the system that protects their freedom. Herein lays the connection to liberal arts and the basic democratic principles. One must be practically educated in a broad sense in order to be an effective participant in their society.

The study of liberal arts can be traced back to the classical era, approximately 7th century BC to 600 AD, when it was recognized that certain subjects and skills were necessary for a free person to play an active role in their society. Early core liberal arts subjects were grammar, logic and rhetoric, but evolved over time to include the study of math, geometry, music, and astronomy. Still later the study of philosophy was also incorporated. In modern society the idea of liberal arts education refers to areas of history, literature, languages, philosophy, psychology, and science. Liberal arts education generally does not include professional, vocational, or technical studies.

There is an unbreakable association between liberal arts education and participation in a democracy. In our country the association is assumptive because it is woven in the values of our American society. We are a country with a Bill of Rights that outlines unalienable rights, equality, and laws based on democratic principles. All citizens have educational institutions available to them and civic participation is expected for our country to remain strong. Without an education of the artes liberales, liberal arts, one could not contribute fully to the democracy. As citizens of an amazing, free country it is our privilege and obligation to have an education rooted in the liberal arts, so we may be people of impact, people of impact in our families, country, and world.