Many people view the act of studying the liberal arts as unimportant and frivolous. Art students or students who attend a liberal arts college are generally “outcasts” in the eyes of society; the misunderstood kids who couldn’t get their act together. However, the power and influence of the liberal arts are, more often than not, greatly underestimated.

Think for a moment about works of literature. Stores across the nation are filled to the brim with the likes of fiction, poetry, and mythology. One would be hard-pressed to find somebody who has never read some form of the genres listed above. Authors in this country are able to express their opinion and make profound statements through the medium of writing, relating to the democratic principal of the ability to express one’s beliefs freely without fear of governmental persecution.

Many countries come to mind when the words “liberal arts” are spoken. Italy, Rome, and Greece are common connections, with good reason. These countries were home to great artists and writers like Da Vinci, Raphael, and Dante Alighieri. Their work (especially Da Vinci’s) has been spread throughout these countries, creating beautiful landmarks and tourist attractions. When a country or city contains many resplendent works for public viewing, it boosts morale. Happier people have been shown to participate more actively in governmental affairs. Pulling all of this together, it is evident that this relates to another democratic principal, the act of interaction between citizen and government.

Taking a step back and pondering a holistic view of liberal arts, it becomes the topic of living a civic life. Being able to actively participate in all the categories of society enables people to become prominent members of society. A citizen who pays his bills with punctuality, his taxes, and votes on a regular basis is combining the liberal arts with democratic principles to embody the very essence of civic virtue in a human being.

Liberal arts closely coincide with the various democratic principles. Because these principles are evident, liberal arts can continue to grow and flourish in democratic society. The end result of a liberal education is a well-rounded, cultured human being. People with a greater understanding of the world and the complex interactions that occur between individuals in different environments make excellent, erudite leaders. When appointing our public officers (another perk of democracy), a candidate who possesses worldly experience and a cultured mindset would be the desirable choice. However, any citizen taking the form of the liberal arts education is a highly regarded one, with the available skillset to utilize the democratic principles to their fullest potential.