

It was not obvious when I began to think about the relationship between the liberal arts and demographic principle, however, as I began to research the two, it became clear why one is essential for the success of the other.

The most important principle that needs to be sustained in order for a democracy to function properly is citizen participation and equality in representation. Without proper participation, a democracy cannot function as intended and the people are not fairly represented. It is imperative that every demographic group participates so that no one group may become more powerful or influential than the others. Uneducated voters have become a large threat to the democratic system. The framers of our country recognized that the most dangerous citizens are the uninformed voters, making decisions on subjects in which they have no knowledge. However, while this threat is so large, it cannot and will never be avoided. The uninformed voters usually make decisions based on name recognition, due to incumbency or large-scale media. Therefore, if the amount of uninformed voters continues to increase, elections will transform into an advertisement competition. This would defeat the purpose of democracy and consequences could be devastating.

Taking all this into consideration, the liberal arts education system provides exposure to a wide range of academic subjects which equips individuals to take an active and informed role in society and democracy. At its core, the liberal arts are those subjects such as philosophy, history, and political science, which are considered essential for a person to know in order to take an active part in civic life. Rather than having a narrow focus, liberal arts education gives the opportunity to broaden one's mind and get a greater understanding of humanity. This allows people to grasp and better understand the concept

of social democracy, freedom, justice, and solidarity through a spirit of openness and dynamic thinking. In addition, while traditional education feeds knowledge into the minds of the students, the liberal arts education encourages individuals to self-discover and form opinions based on one's own knowledge and experience rather than the opinions of others. It is important that voters are thinking for themselves instead of letting media and other influencing factors make decisions for them.

We are privileged in this country to be given the opportunity to choose a liberal arts education, knowing that it will broaden one's mind and allow one to be a valuable voice of democracy.