Democracy through Education

Throughout the world, a common element that connects us is our pursuit of living a happy, long, and full life. Many people want to live in a safe environment where they can enjoy life. A democratic society is such a place where people have equal rights that do not discriminate by race, ethnicity or gender. Many argue that in order to obtain this and move towards a better, society, one must accumulate a wealth of education. Today, there are many different types of education available. Some people go to a career or technical school where they will be trained in specialized work directly related to their profession. Others choose a broader education such as liberal arts. Having a liberal arts education prepares one to view many challenging concepts with a wide understanding and broader horizons.

A liberal arts education prepares one with a wide variety of concepts that corresponds to a democratic system. Within a democratic society, people come together from different back-grounds to try to solve problems and make one's country better. In order to do this, one must have an open mind and an acceptance to different ways of thinking. Today, many people believe that their ideas are the only ideas, and they seem to cover their ears and not want to listen to other people's views and concepts. This is a serious flaw in our society because it is important to have a wide range of views since usually there is not only one right answer to solve a problem. Often there are multiple answers and solutions. When people have a liberal arts education, they will see things from various perspectives. This understanding helps people make a democratic society better since they will be able to look beyond themselves to help others. If someone goes to a technical or career school, he or she may not be exposed to other ways of thinking and problem solving; they may only learn about the concepts unique to their profession. Because of this, many people will then go out into the world having strong opinions that they are not willing to change and may not be open to new ideas. Since many democratic principles are based on people working together to help others, one must not have too many overshadowing opinions that may prevent one from listening to others. Therefore, a liberal arts education is something of great value in a democratic society.

A liberal arts education not only will help people, it will also help to make a democratic society better. If people are not open to different ideas or opinions and just lived their lives in the same, monotonous way, they isolate themselves and do not participate in changing the world into a better place. Today, there are still many problems in the world. However, through a broad education and an open mind, we can help share many of our democratic principles with all of humanity and help better the earth.