

(1) Josh Hill's answer to Is education overrated? - Quora

I now see 11,000 upvotes for an answer with which I passionately disagree.

Can some people achieve and contribute without formal education? Sure.

But I sure couldn't be an electrical engineer without my education. I couldn't even read an article in a technical journal. And the same is true for doctors, lawyers, teachers, scientists, accountants, programmers, nurses, dentists, and a whole slew of other professions.

Education isn't just about getting credentials. If you handed me an MD degree, would you then feel comfortable about having me operate on your gall bladder? I hope not, because you'd probably end up dead. I'm not even very good at carving a turkey.

But there's more to education than vocation. Education enriches our lives and makes us better citizens.

To be unfamiliar with the works of Shakespeare or Nietzsche or Adam Smith or Freud? I'd feel immeasurably deprived if I hadn't had an education.

I'd go through life in a state of ignorance, easily fooled by superstition or political cant.

My own thought would be impoverished, as I'd have to recreate the wheel each time I thought about something — and if I did think of something, would be stymied when I tried to communicate, because I would lack the common vocabulary with which we describe it.

Of course, one can be an autodidact. My grandfather had to leave school at age 12 to go to work, but he studied in the evenings and became so learned

that many mistakenly address him as “doctor.”

But let’s be honest, most people don’t have that kind of hunger or that kind of drive. Working six days a week, Grandpa had to study evenings in the library, with the assistance of a friendly teacher. How many of us have the drive to do that?

High levels of education are inevitably seen in the world’s most advanced, prosperous, and democratic countries, and low levels of education in the poorest ones.

The benefits of education are many and manifest.

Education pays...

Education pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates

