

Personal Haiku

Somebody help us

Puppets of media

Dub me the puppeteer

Spoken Word

Inadvertent mind control. You see it every day.

always televised-but rarely analyzed.

It's not in any lesson plan, but has monopolized grade school.

Not a family member, but is invited to every reunion

It's a mirror image. Exact and detailed

What they depict is how we behave and as we behave is what they'll transmit.

It's a monster of society. Gobbling its viewers

Some think it's a new thing, But really, nothing's changed.

How can I take the leash and tame this roaring beast?

By no longer being a product of its lies But a success in its contrast

Then I will become the one who makes the decisions,

Using my focus in telecommunications

To redeem this continuous frustration

And change the way music impacts the nation

Educational Autobiography

A. Ecology & Standpoint

A person's outlook on life can be greatly influenced by their views of ecology. The ecological ideas behind Ellen Swallow Richards state that "the betterment of living conditions through conscious endeavor", indicating that ecology is something that is

constantly changing and can be manipulated (Vassar Encyclopedia). My place in society is fairly modest currently, because I have to remain subservient to a plethora of authoritative figures. But knowing that ecological standpoint is temporary empowers myself and others to work for personal improvement in the various aspects of life.

My cultural identity is a combination of many different and unique experiences as well as broader experiences that correlate with the “standpoint social contract” in which “a shared set of experiences any group can identify with” (Evans). I am a heterosexual, Black female who was born upstate. Because of this, my accent, mentality and position on a lot of situations are drastically different from that of my peers because of regional differences within the same country. I have been in advanced programs my entire life, never had a serious job and have been blessed with middle class finance. As a result I have been sheltered by a glossy educational system and did not see the disadvantages other students had until later in my academic career. I am in a generation where priorities are askew, yet I was involved in the election of the first black president! I enjoy physical and mental exercises and am a very visual learner. I love being creative with everything about me. I have strong Christian morals, on my own accord and disagree with a lot of what science “proves”. My personal individuality shows how even within similar backgrounds or ethnicities, ideas or opinions can be drastically different.

B. Questions, Values & Philosophy

It is important for education to be relevant to a student’s life and future goals because “education helps young people prepare for adulthood...during childhood and adolescence more than during any other phases of the life cycle” (Growing Up Global). Often times high school students will voice that a certain subject, class or trivia they are

required to learn is irrelevant to their life plans. This statement has a lot of validity because if a student cannot apply what they are learning, or have no schema of knowledge to assimilate new information into, then is the education they are receiving still beneficial? Extraneous bits of information being taught can sometimes be used to create new branches of knowledge, but if a student does not correlate this to their lives, then the transference of this knowledge will be ill effective. Education needs to include courses extending beyond the rubric because it is also the time of life that highlights the “development of physical or cognitive skills, the acquisition of knowledge, and the shaping of values, attitudes and beliefs” (Growing Up Global). In other words the quality of education is affecting the type of citizens that will be products of the school system. If the type of education being taught and received is not pertinent in the lives of the students, then there is a lack of consistency between the two that needs to be repaired.

Of the list of many upstanding values there are that pertain to this subject, some of them also support the notion of education being congruent with the goals of the student. For instance, acceptance, conformity and approval collectively represent why so many students discontinue their educational endeavors. If they cannot identify with the topics being discussed, then they will not resonate in their daily living.

C. Academic & Professional Goals & Competence

I am a telecommunications major on a production track. I chose this major because it is entrenched with various types of information surrounding media and focuses on how it affects society. Educationally, my goals are to complete undergraduate school and intern every summer in between to make the necessary connections for my career plans. My career goals are to learn all of the important skills behind the scenes of a production crew, (either for cinema or a music label) and use these skills to make suggestions and improvements.

Initially I wanted to focus on editing and cinematography in film, but after seeing *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* I was inspired to make a difference in the production of music. I would specifically like to alter the image of African Americans in society by changing the way they are depicted in the media. There are already internship opportunities available and once successful in this area, both my education and career can positively make a difference.

Based on an article on Women & Girls Tech Up, a role model is someone who not only has qualities a person may desire to possess, but often times it is also someone who motivates personal response or improvement; “to advocate for ourselves and our goals and take leadership on the issues that we believe in” (Women & Girls Tech Up). With this idea of a role model in mind, I selected three individuals that motivated me to strive towards my particular career interest. The first is Jesse B. Blayton Sr. who started a black radio station, Don Cornelius who produced Soul Train and John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish who made the first black newspaper. All of these people produced positive media for its black viewers just as I want to alter the negative media towards African Americans currently. Hopefully I am successful in my endeavors and will be able to portray many more positive models for youth to emulate.

Bibliography

“Ellen Swallow Richards.” Vassar Encyclopedia. 2005. Vassar College, Web. 2 Mar 2010

<<http://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/alumni/ellen-swallow-richards.html>>

Evans, Stephanie. “SCAAAARRS (Cultural Identity Framework & Standpoint and Social

Contract.”Professorevans.com. 2007.Web. 3 Mar 2010.

<<http://www.professorevans.com/CulturalIdentityWorksheet.pdf>>

“Role Models and Online Mentoring.”*Women & Girls Tech Up*.2000. TechUp, Web.

3/1/10. <http://www.techup.org/mentor/mn_rolemd.html>.

“Youth and Education: Trends and Challenges.” *Growing up Global*. PRB, Web. 4 Mar 2010.

<<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/storage/advfy/documents/education.pdf>>