

Introduction

An accountant **may** never need to recall lines from Dante, nor may a journalist ever need to apply a chemical equation. In fact, **it is arguable that** gone are the days of the Renaissance man and woman—that in today's light-speed global economy, one needs only to specialize to become marketable. **Unfortunately**, this limited perspective is depriving generations of the enrichment afforded by liberal-arts institutions and the chance for students to discover passions that would otherwise remain dormant.

Thesis

A liberal-arts education is critical for students to unlock their maximum potential, to help students bridge concepts across various schools of thought and inspire new interdisciplinary ideas, and to prevent students from squandering time and resources in pursuit of careers that never engage their passions.

Topic Sentence No. 1

Tech and trade schools are not without merit, **but** the trouble is that their narrow focuses limit students' educations **whereas** the breadth encouraged at liberal-arts institutions forces students to adapt to and apply concepts beyond their comfort zones, catalyzing intellectual growth.

Topic Sentence No. 2

Exposure to different philosophical disciplines is an essential element of progress, of new designs and novel applications—**for example**, the equal parts exquisite sculpture and precise geometry of the Taj Mahal or the interplay between geological and biological concepts that led Darwin to his theory of evolution.

Topic Sentence No. 3

There is no greater driver of success and innovation than passion, **and** there is no greater tragedy than a life spent in pursuit of that which does not arouse a sense of enthusiasm and meaning—**but** sometimes, one must first discover his or her passions, **and** a liberal-arts education is an effective means of becoming acquainted with them.

Conclusion

Perhaps a physician may never apply the knowledge of how Van Gogh's *Starry Night* helped shape the Post-Impressionist movement, **but**, just maybe, an artist's explanation of how the Fibonacci sequence lends such symmetry to the *Mona Lisa* would inspire her to recognize that same structure in nature, from the patterns of hurricanes to the position of an embryo in utero—the insight she needed to revolutionize the field of obstetrics.