

Why Students Should Study Less

Take a moment to pause your actions and envision the appalling vision of children confined in a claustrophobic prison, that takes knowledge out of their heads instead of giving them intelligence. Imagine a dreadful jail where children lose what they were promised to gain. Visualize the haunting picture of children incarcerated in workshops that create countless burdens that inundate children. That workshop, that jail, that prison is all one reality. School. Every year, children spend approximately 2,400 hours sitting (100 days) – more time than they spend sleeping. This highlights the unignorable fact – students need to study less. Through an overflow that steals their minds rather than giving them knowledge, modern education is inadequate for all students, the essential solution only being to study less to learn more.

An analysis conducted by the Oxford University shows that out 200 students, half engaging in active learning, and the other half in traditional classroom studies, the group that engaged in active learning scored 45% greater on their tests compared to the students that participated in traditional classroom studies, proving that active learning retains more knowledge in a human's memory. Furthermore, an experiment controlled by Neuroscientist Adam Smith shows that when a group of students learn through traditional classroom methods, after a week roughly 70% of the information gained was forgotten, and after a month around 95% of the knowledge was forgotten. Additionally, research has proven that traditional classroom methods, which focus on direct memorisation of information, are less effective compared to indirect questions that promote critical thinking about the topic.

Instead of confining students to a classroom, allowing them to learn outdoors offers a more immersive and engaging experience. Nature itself can become a teacher, fostering better knowledge retention and deeper involvement. Under the guidance of an educator, students can explore the natural world, interacting with plants and animals while also learning important life values through the interconnected ecosystem. This approach engages all five senses, which enhances memory and overall learning. The towering oak tree teaches patience and hope, the diligent ant exemplifies hard work and perseverance, and the soaring bird symbolizes freedom.

Opponents of my proposal may argue that switching to a natural approach to learning will remove discipline and structure, allowing students to do whatever they wish. I acknowledge this perspective as it looks at the possible outcomes of natural learning, and also factors reality. However I believe that active learning is still more beneficial than traditional methods, as by decreasing structure, it nurtures creativity, as the child is free to decide what to do. Natural learning also gives more knowledge, by immersing the five senses, and making the student active. Furthermore, as there is a teacher to assist students, discipline and focus still remains as a core value, unlike traditional learning when students lose focus. Additionally, the structure and schedule is not lost in immersive learning, as it only becomes broader, with barriers of recess, lunch and also some group meetings, where the agenda of the day can be discussed.

You will either be remembered as the saviour of human education, or the demolitionist of its very foundations. You will either be remembered as the altruistic benevolence that built a haven for education, or the executioner of countless hopes and dreams. You will either be hailed as the salvation of youth education, or condemned for your ignorance. We have the time. We have the money. We just need your choice.