

Isabella Nelson

English 110- J

January 22, 2018

Entry Prompt

Although many people go to college and universities with their minds set on a degree, many times it can change based on a variety of elements. Ronald Barnett discusses how higher education can be troublesome to students, urging that they understand that life has many unknowns and can not always be cookie cutter. In my opinion this view can compare to Nussbaum's in the way that they both are emphasizing uncertainty in higher education. Nussbaum mentions the way that the U.S. educational system pushes students to take courses in many different subjects during their time in a university. This can cause numerous to decide that they would want to study another subject. In my life, I have learned that things can change unexpectedly leaving me to change several plans and decisions much like how numberless students come to change their majors during their college career.

In *The Idea of Higher Education* by Ronald Barnett, we read that "A genuine higher education is unsettling; it is not meant to be a cosy experience." College education can lead students down a path to their true passion and or better financial success. This can be a very problematic time for students. For some it may even cause mass amounts of stress due to the need to switch courses or add extra credits on their course load. In "Education for Profit, Education for Democracy" in *Reading the World* from Martha Nussbaum, Nussbaum writes about students creating their own opinions through questioning. She writes about students becoming "informed, independent, and sympathetic democratic citizens." We only know what

our opinions will become after learning and questioning the facts that are given to us by our higher education providers.

Multiple times in life, circumstances had led me down different paths. Growing up I thought that I wanted to be a ballerina. I even attended a prestigious ballet school in New York City during my early high school years in preparation for a career in ballet. I soon came to find something that I loved even more, physical therapy. Although I did not learn this in class at the time, I did come to realize that there are many things that I can do with my future. Nussbaum writes, the higher educational system requires students to take "a variety of courses in the first two years of school." While taking various different courses I see that there are a multitude of subjects that interest me. I believe that because of this, populous amounts of students see that they want to pursue a new career path.

I believe that higher education provides more than just a degree, it gives some students guidance towards creating their own opinions and finding what they desire. The education we receive is to provide us with knowledge for our future careers although, until enrolled in school, some students do not know what they want them to be. This idea reflects the writing of Nussbaum because of her discussion of variation in course loads. She writes "Instead of entering college/university to study a single subject, students are required to take a wide range of courses..." In my opinion this is how we see the switch in majors for many students.

Students may enter a college or university with their mind set on a degree but, through learning a variety of subjects, many decide to go down different paths. The higher education experience is not always predictable. Like Nussbaum and Barnett discuss, there is uncertainty not only in discovering your own opinions but possibly your future as well. Attaining a college degree is not just about earning a degree, it is about discovering your passions and beliefs.

