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Weekly Free Write

Imagine a world with free world class education for anyone! I don't mean to sound like Khan Academy, although I'm a big fan of Sal Khan, but education is absolutely the key to social progress.

Education transcends academia. Learning goes way beyond books and notebooks, it's not about peer reviews and essays with more articles than content. It's about simple *understanding* of objective facts or subjective analysis. There's a stark difference between knowing and *understanding* things. When I know how sky is blue, I don't understand how the sky is blue. Knowing implies awareness of an idea, but understanding implies deep comprehension of the "*whys*" of an idea. If someone asks me why the sky is blue, I'll honestly and simply say I don't know, I just know that it is! I don't understand that the sky is blue, I remember reading previously that it has something to do with photonics and the way light scatters with gasses in the atmosphere, but I don't deeply understand all the processes that eventually yield to a sky that our eyes perceive as blue. Returning from the tangent, what does one do to understand why the sky is blue? Does a curious mind automatically decide to apply to college and get a degree in physics to understand this? Absolutely not! A curious mind will naturally just ask and attempt to find answers by whatever means necessary. If it takes going to a university and asking a physicist, they will do so, if it takes reading a book on photonics, they will read the book, if it takes a few weeks of googling things, they will do so as well. It should not be assumed that students of academia are

being educated.

Furthermore, what if a curious mind does not have access to a university with a physicist, what if they do not have a library nearby, what if they cannot access the internet to google things? Plain and simple, education is not impossible under these circumstances, a curious person can probe and experiment and eventually find an answer, but the intention from a society should be to allow its people to have access to education as easily as possible, and to provide these curious minds with the resources they need. It will not yield tangible immediate economic returns, and will not be an incredibly visible benefit for society, but I am of the opinion that education must be one of the (if not the single) greatest priority of government and society.