

Appreciate Education

Forget about material things and focus on education. I don't know you, I don't know your name, I'm not interested in you, but I smell you in the hallway and you think you're cool. I can smell both kinds of smoke. They look like they don't have any purpose in life. Always talking about who I'm wearing, LRG, Sean John, whatever. As we all know teenagers of today do not value education like the way it is supposed to be valued. But they tend to pay attention to unimportant stuff like drinking, smoking, and not taking advantage of the free education they have in the United States. Other countries have to pay in order to get education.

On the Discovery Channel I saw a documentary about how African countries have to pay to go to school and how some parents do not have the money to pay. Some parents were poor, unemployed, so it was not easy for them to pay their school fees. They interviewed some of the parents and they looked really sad. I could not understand their language but I could feel the pain and struggle they were going through from their facial expressions and how they were talking with tears in their eyes. They wished they had money but there was nothing they could do about the poverty. Some of the kids were interviewed and they were worried and sad because they wanted to go to school but without the money they could not go. Tears rolled down some of their eyes as they spoke and I cried knowing what they were going through. I was angry at myself for not appreciating the free education I had. From that day onwards, I saw how lucky I was and the opportunities I had, that is when I realized we have it easy in the United States and I took education seriously. I used to be an average student and not really into this education game. I started staying after school a lot to ask my English teacher for help. I stepped up my game because I needed help with my essays. The class looked very empty the first time because I was the only one who stayed after school that day. At first I was quiet but as time went on I became comfortable. Ms. McCleod taught me the steps in writing an essay. She does not teach for the sake of teaching, she teaches because she has passion for it. She explains the words and it seems easy to me. The essay turned out to be very interesting and easy.

The government has to do something about this situation because teenagers are the future leaders and without education the world would not be a better place, especially in this computer world we are in right now. My mother always tells me how she wished she had the opportunities I have now, she wouldn't be going through hard situations like finding it hard to pay the mortgage when it is due. Sometimes when she did not have a lot of money, she would look up to the clear blue sky and say, "God please help me," and I would feel so bad and sorry for her. I know how hard it is and I do not want to go through that situation. That motivates me to work hard and not to follow "the crowd." I am not like anyone else, I am myself and that is the most important thing to me. Sometimes I wish that every teenager who did not take education seriously would just be like me. A lot of grownups tell me how they wished they had not taken education for granted, they would not have been struggling so much for food and shelter. They always tell me not to follow the so called "cool stuff." It will not take me anywhere. People misjudge me when I tell them my high school, then I tell them "I am not my school, I am me Tracy Asiedu." I tell them I would rather do my project than go to a party just to dance and sweat. There is more important stuff in life.

I am so thankful I think in that way. I know that doing all my school work and not smoking or skipping school will pay off one day. It is not easy being not being the regular teenager but I have faith in myself. As my grandmother always says, "suffer now and enjoy later, enjoy now suffer later."