

The Humanities Build Empathy

Greater familiarity with literary fiction correlates with a stronger ability to understand others' thoughts and feelings.

Source: David Comer Kidd and Emanuele Castano, August 2016.

Findings from neuroscience show that reading fiction stimulates the brain networks responsible for understanding the perspectives of others.

Source: Diana I. Tamir, Andrew B. Bricker, David Dodell-Feder, and Jason P. Mitchell, February 2016.

Those who participate in philosophical or ethical discussions and take humanities classes in college are more likely to volunteer, give to nonprofit groups, and become otherwise altruistic.

Source: Scott Jaschik, January 9, 2017.



The humanities are such an important vehicle for widening the world... for teaching empathy for people outside yourself.... In this time of increasing tribalism, this seems like such a critical role.



~ Drew Gilpin Faust, President, Harvard University



National Humanities Alliance

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