

**2015 Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship Honorable Mention
(Margaret Hinson, Newberg Senior High School)**

Though I may wish it,
The role of education is not to be the basis of the civil justice movement
(it's role is much simpler than that).
The role of education is to teach students to think
for ourselves,
to see this world clearly and to be
unafraid to speak our minds.
In a classroom, there should be no banned topics
The only thing that should ever be banned in a classroom is
hate
of others
of ourselves
of this world we live in
Hate does not stop hate.
It is time for people to be educated in
tolerance
Imagine teachers that preach the wonders of
understanding
and tell students of all sorts of
people
ideas
religions
cultures
worlds
which we never would have been exposed to before.
Education has the power to change society into
a wild world with wonders whirling
or
daring deeds done against daunting desperados
or
maybe merely more.

A painter on the street,
A gruff boss,
A small child with a big smile.
They are all my teachers.
It is from them that I learn how to
Find the beauty in sadness
Handle messy situations
Be happy for no good reason
Yet somehow, I feel uneducated.
I feel uneducated when not a single teacher's lips say goodbye to
Michael Brown
I feel uneducated when my health teacher tells me
how much liquor my womanly body can hold but not
that some boys see drunkenness as consent

I feel uneducated when my teachers refuse to let a student take a break
Making the rest of the class believe mental illness is just a fancy way of saying
Moral
weakness.

I do not intend to take away from the good
that education has done,
I have gained much in my time in the education system.
How to dance
How to read a CT scan
How to write a poem that means something
for that I am thankful.
Instead I call education to a higher standard.
It is through
education
understanding
knowledge
that people learn to be good and just.
This world is full of good people
doing the wrong thing.
Whether it be due to how they were raised
or what their faith tells them
does not matter.
What is important is that
education
can expose them to what is
good and
just.
Education forces people
to think
when it is so much easier in life to simply
go with the flow.
It is the education we receive from
peers, presidents, coaches, clergy, musicians, moms
that make us who we are,
but it is the education bestowed upon us by
teachers
that allows us to see clearly.
To see with fair and just eyes.
This justice and tolerance is what will lead to
peace.

The first step towards this change begins with
teachers and students
being willing to listen to others
and to each other.
Education is so much more than marks on a page or
formulas in our heads

It could be movements that we love
or cultures which astound us.
Every
single day
the next generation is molded
by the grasp of the education system.
At times this hold can feel suffocating,
but it has the power to shape us all into
Tolerant and just people.
Steps are being made
big ones
little ones
sometimes backwards ones
At least the education system is still moving.
Education could be
will be
must be
so much more.