

West Virginia University

The Importance of Self-Education

Influence of Online Learning

Rori Biszantz

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Professor Bergamini

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## REFLECTION

Throughout the semester, I was pretty nervous about how my portfolio was going to come to be. I had many hesitations and felt very lost at many moments. I feel that pushing myself further than I thought was possible will be able to help me achieve my goals this semester. I feel as if my pieces fit together like a flowing river. Although reading through piece by piece may be repetitive, it is imperative to appreciate the different uses of styles. My process was very messy. I had many days of correcting and proofreading and got so lost in my entire writing process. I felt as if I needed to start over. I studied my grammar more than I have before in this class. I had to go through days of making sure I was writing what I wanted to get across. I feel that my editorial is one of my strong pieces, it incorporates all of the information I personally think tells a lot about my research.

Within my portfolio, my annotated bibliography was challenging to write because I had written too much. It was hard having so much information to choose from to include in my final. I found myself editing out masses of whole paragraphs, etc. This writing assignment taught me to be very patient and to trust the entire process of writing. I chose the topic for this paper to give a base on what my research would look like for the semester. I found myself restarting this essay stuck in writer's block, though pushing through fuels me with relief. Secondly, my proposal essay was difficult because I wasn't sure of the exact approach I would convey within my writing. This writing taught me to not be as wordy and find the importance within the ideas I have. I chose this topic to introduce my ideas and have a field to create. I revised some grammatical errors and added key terms to steer my writing in the direction I wanted. Next, within my research report, I lacked citations and supporting evidence for my ideas. I also saw that my ideas started to conflict with one another. I made adjustments for this. I chose this topic to show great detail and evidence

to support my main claim. Finally, my editorial was very difficult. I decided to dissect my entire writing process all the way through. I found that this essay held a lot of strength and helped shape my portfolio to be as conveying as it has become over the course of this semester. This writing taught me that sometimes it's good to take a step back and reset. This essay topic was chosen to close my thoughts on my research. I made grammatical and sentence structure adjustments.

As a child, I was passionate about writing. I won competitions and read an essay aloud to an audience. Writing has been an outlet for me and I want to turn it into a career. With being in school, I have been able to learn much more than I had thought. I have grown as a writer to the extent that I don't get too nervous about my own grammar. During this semester, I faced the challenge of a lack of motivation. I knew I had the work and I wanted to do it, but it felt so impossible. I overcame this by putting healthy lifestyle basics into my daily routine. This semester I struggled with my midterm portfolio. I chose to sit back and try my best on my final. I learned more about quotations and the many different forms and styles of writing. I have the goal to become a confident writer. I want to have more faith in myself and what I am capable of writing.

For this course, I feel as though it would be crucial to have online instruction, zoom. I would've been more confident in the process of the semester. I enjoyed the weekly notes, it really helped me form my writing and kick-started ideas. I didn't enjoy some of the exercises the book wanted us to complete. At times, I was left very confused. My advice for others would be to not procrastinate and be confident in their writing.

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Between the first draft and my final, the differences would be my thesis and the structure of my writing. Previously, my thesis wasn't clear or present, I was very unsure. I decided to incorporate more textual evidence and elaborate more on places I wasn't as clear on. I decided to shorten my essay a lot to fit the format of the essay. With this, my thesis along with my entire essay is compelled to be more clear. I felt that I had the ability to completely reform my research.

### Advantages to Self-Education

In life, education is a key fundamental to success. Throughout my years as a student, I have questioned our "great" school system. I have been exposed to new ways of learning whether that's an online school or learning through experiences. Within this piece, there will be evidence provided that online, experiential learning is superior. The authors I have researched have a great depth of detail and knowledge on how self-paced schooling can benefit one's education immensely. Online education leads to greater success academically and mentally.

Gray, Peter. "School Is a Prison -- and Damaging Our Kids." *Salon*, Salon.com, 26 Aug. 2013, [www.salon.com/2013/08/26/school\\_is\\_a\\_prison\\_and\\_damaging\\_our\\_kids/](http://www.salon.com/2013/08/26/school_is_a_prison_and_damaging_our_kids/).

Gray believes that formal education is overly restrictive and depletes children's ambitions and goals. With these children in a class all day being told to obey, it only sets them up to look at the future in a grim way. Online learning according to Gray, allows personal and academic growth by permitting them the freedom to explore personal passions. For example, Gray conducted studies in different schools and school types. He found that alternative school forms were more beneficial, such as, democratic schools, e-learning, or learning from family about their own culture. Gray is a credible source due to the compelling story he portrays and valid

evidence and data. I intend to use this source to show the students' point of view and a look into the formal education system in my writing.

Jenni, Carlina. "Benefits of Constant Self-Education and Personal Growth." *Medium*, Medium, 26 Jan. 2020, [medium.com/@carlinajenni/benefits-of-constant-self-education-and-personal-growth-b53382482438](https://medium.com/@carlinajenni/benefits-of-constant-self-education-and-personal-growth-b53382482438).

Jenni believes that self-growth is the way to success and self-growth is promoted by self-knowledge. "There are a number of personal qualities that would actually help you to expand: self-assurance, honesty, kindness, and openness, smiling is no longer most effective with the lips but also with the eyes, adopting the mindset of a leader and no longer bending down" (Jenni). By making yourself the primary target of education, the personal qualities that lead to success, such as self-assurance, honesty, kindness, and leadership are best developed. Jenni is a credible source due to her dynamic media style approach. She uses amounts of persuasion that I intend on replicating within my writing. She encourages those who want to find self-growth to focus on themselves rather than others. Jenni states that you will grow more into the person you are meant to be each day.

Luaran, Johan Eddy, et al. "A Study on the Students Perspective on the Effectiveness of Using e-Learning." *Science Direct*, 2013, [pdf.sciencedirectassets.com](https://pdf.sciencedirectassets.com)

Through experimentation and conducted studies, Luaran focuses on the fact that students who participate in online school can have access to their homework and assignments at any time of any day. He explains that learning in this way excites the students and provides a space for students to be creative within their own personal lives. For example, one student may complete

an assignment in a doctor's office or grocery store. Whatever it may be, there are many benefits to online learning, especially within the studies provided. Luaran cites scientific research that concludes that children learn better in their own environment. Luaran is a credible source due to the amount of research collected. I intend to use this source to back up my arguments with factual information.

Magda, Róbert. "The Current Role and Advantages of Self-Education." *Logistics and Transport* 24 (2014): 53-58.

Magda believes in the power of self-education and its invitation to allow natural talent to create or take advantage of an opportunity to further develop strengths. He explains that school gives us structure, but we control the outcome. In other words, whatever efforts you put into something, even with trial and error, there is a lesson to be learned. This, in turn, feeds motivation to find or create future opportunities. For example, Magda states, "Motivated people will find ways to acquire knowledge without dependency on instructors" (Magda). Self-awareness will lead you to enhance your natural talents and thrive. Magda is a credible source due to the amount of credible evidence shown. I can use his many examples that will defend my argument and also be the foundation of my research.

Tullis, Jonathan G, and Aaron S Benjamin. "On the Effectiveness of Self-Paced Learning ." *Semantic Scholar*, 2011,  
[www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Current-Role-and-Advantages-of-Self-Education-Magda/337fba7d780cb666d8982958a8d09bfffacdac51e](http://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Current-Role-and-Advantages-of-Self-Education-Magda/337fba7d780cb666d8982958a8d09bfffacdac51e).

Within this piece of writing, there was great detail on conducted studies. Tullis mainly describes that metacognitive monitoring is an important factor to help individuals who are more

independent to improve and shows various evidence to support this. Children with educational freedom have scientifically been proven to surpass children that still rely on our school systems to get their own life started for them. Children who take classes remotely find their grit within their free time and through remote learning have more responsibility for their education. I intend to use this to defend my arguments by showing how and why that is possible.



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Gray, Peter. "School Is a Prison -- and Damaging Our Kids." *Salon*, Salon.com, 26 Aug. 2013, [www.salon.com/2013/08/26/school\\_is\\_a\\_prison\\_and\\_damaging\\_our\\_kids/](http://www.salon.com/2013/08/26/school_is_a_prison_and_damaging_our_kids/).

Jenni, Carlina. "Benefits of Constant Self-Education and Personal Growth." *Medium*, Medium, 26 Jan. 2020, [medium.com/@carlinajenni/benefits-of-constant-self-education-and-personal-growth-b53382482438](https://medium.com/@carlinajenni/benefits-of-constant-self-education-and-personal-growth-b53382482438).

Luaran, Johan Eddy, et al. "A Study on the Students Perspective on the Effectiveness of Using e-Learning." *Science Direct*, 2013, [pdf.sciencedirectassets.com](http://pdf.sciencedirectassets.com)

Magda, Róbert. "The Current Role and Advantages of Self-Education." *Logistics and Transport* 24 (2014): 53-58.

Tullis, Jonathan G, and Aaron S Benjamin. "On the Effectiveness of Self-Paced Learning ." *Semantic Scholar*, 2011, [www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Current-Role-and-Advantages-of-Self-Education-Magda/337fba7d780cb666d8982958a8d09bffacdac51e](http://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Current-Role-and-Advantages-of-Self-Education-Magda/337fba7d780cb666d8982958a8d09bffacdac51e).

## PROPOSAL

Within this essay, the main change was minor grammatical errors and also incorporating an emphasis on my thesis. I have had a hard time this semester with developing a thesis, so I wanted to ensure that adding it would help the flow of the portfolio. I found that my ideas weren't there as I wrote this essay. Through this process, I have adapted to finding my way to find what works best for me.

### Online Learning Encourages Self-Growth

While many styles of education are beneficial, more and more online learning opportunities are creating superior learning environments for more students. In comparison to a standard classroom, online learning helps students reach their full potential. In a standard classroom in the education system, students are expected to listen and abide by the rules. While in online learning, these students can do their classwork on their own time, participate in more hobbies, and have a life involving school rather than feeling forced to "go".

In my research, I want to dive deep into the education system and unveil why online learning promotes a more stable learning environment. I will do this by using research from my annotated bibliography and new research to be more grounded in my writing. For example, I will be using my most reliable source to provide information on how important it is to focus on self-growth and use your natural talents for success in education and life. "*The Current Role and Advantages of Self-Education*" exactly depicts what I want to format my research on. This article unfolds the importance of how school gives us structure but we as people have to take responsibility for the outcome. Also, how to grow and learn from your mistakes, figuring life out on your own to create self-growth and true success.

I also will touch base with research providing exact data on how effective online learning is to one as a whole. As I have used past data in my research I have found a new article to be

compelling. In a study conducted in 2017, there was a 4.19% increase in students taking courses fully online. Due to the flexibility of online school itself. With technology evolving each day, online learning becomes more accessible and reliable to some who learn better on their own time. With this and more information provided in the article "*Online Education Ascends*" I will be able to directly show more trends following how effective online learning is. Along with that new information, I will use it to describe how although every style of education is beneficial, there is a sudden increase in students enrolled in online school for many reasons.

The research methods I practice are finding reliable articles or essays with strong supporting evidence. I also use my sources to find important information to use in my writing. I will highlight the information and make a diagram to have my ideas flow together. Finally, I will use my research to engage in my topic while following with a counter-argument and conclusion to my thesis.

## **RESEARCH REPORT**

For my research report, I decided to add more information and supporting evidence. I noticed that my original lacked integrity. I felt that my sentences were not as structured as I had wanted them to be. I also went through and changed my title to continue to follow my thesis throughout the portfolio. I believe adding supporting evidence strengthens my thesis and research. I decided to not dissect this report due to the potential I saw it had. After, revising my research made a lot more sense.

## **Chapter 6: Writing to Convey Research Research Report**

THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION WITHIN ONLINE SCHOOLING

Prepared By: RORI BISZANTZ

Preparation for English Writing Course  
West Virginia University

Lecturer: THAYNA BERGAMINI

27th October 2020

## Summary

This report focuses on the differences between the mental, emotional, and physical benefits of children that learn in a standard classroom, compared to online/self-learning. The biggest distinction between the two is online learning encourages self-growth and personal success. On the contrary, standardized schooling is routine-based explicitly. With this, many forms and styles of learning are highly proficient, but the main focus of this research resides with online learning and the number of growth opportunities.

Key findings include:

- ❑ There are no restrictions on freedom for children who learn online. These children can complete their work at any place or time. This allows them to have a life outside of their schoolwork. Specifically, they can engage in new hobbies, activities, and most importantly their own culture and traditions. Most importantly, scientific research concludes that children learn better in their own environment.
- ❑ Regular self-training and discipline are two factors needed for individuals to ensure they are going to be successfully independent. These skills can be obtained through hands-on experiences rather than being learned through books and homework.
- ❑ Lessons are to be learned through trial and error and lead to success in self-education. Metacognitive monitoring helps those who are more independent to improve. These children rely on themselves and take responsibility fully for their education. Natural talent and opportunity are key ways to heighten a person's success.

The information presented in this report has been gathered from secondary sources.

The report has been prepared for submission as Chapter 6 English Writing Course at West Virginia University.

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# **1 Introduction**

Throughout time, standardized schooling has been the only option available to many. With recent technological advancements, many scholars have used it to their advantage by incorporating it into their teaching lives. These technological advancements have been crucial for many, especially students who do not thrive in a standard school day. Many students have different minds, utilizing different learning styles. Online learning opens a window of opportunity for those who seek opportunities and would thrive in an adapting learning environment. With different forms of education, success is within the reach of many who strive for it. This report will dive deep into the idea of other forms of education being more beneficial than some may believe.

This report is an accessible component of the English Writing course at West Virginia University, Morgantown Campus.

## **1.1 Methodology**

Information from this report was collected from various secondary sources, all listed on the Reference List. Key findings were found following these various sources. This report is not a comprehensive review of the topic but provides a broad overview of the topic.

## **1.2 Scope of the report**

This information is used in such ways to enhance the goal of the paper. The report focuses on the benefits of online education in today's society in comparison to learning in a standard classroom setting. Also, this report focuses on the unfolding of the popularity of online learning. In today's society, things are sought out to be more convenient and attention-grabbing, we want this within our school systems as well as everyday life. This report will reflect on the changes in the popularity of the forms of education. But, more importantly, the idea is that every learning style is beneficial, but online learning creates a superior stable learning environment for many students.

## **2. Findings**

### **2.1 The Freedom's to Online Learning**

Overall, online learning allows students to have the freedom to learn in their own time. Rather than participating within a classroom on an education system's time, these online students can complete their assignments anytime and anywhere. For example, many students become discouraged by learning within an environment of obedience and structure. Happiness plummets while many students are in the classroom setting, becoming bored and or anxious (Gray). These students have the opportunity to live their life the way they want while obtaining the education they want.

Within these hours of a school day, students within the formal education system are limited in what they can do after school, especially having a whole night of assignments to complete on top of the school day. This limits their ability to succeed in social and academic life by taking advantage of the student's time in their day.

While on the other hand, students who participate in online learning can engage in any activity at any time of the day. These students have a big sense of responsibility with the fact of completing assignments while living their life the way they want. For example, students who engage in online learning can learn a new language, play a new instrument, engage in religious activities, and much more. The opportunities are endless for online students due to the fact that they are their own advocates for their education.

### **2.2 Self-Training and Hands-On Experiences**

In comparison to children learning standardly, in a classroom, online students have the opportunity to learn through more life experiences. Due to the fact they live their lives predominantly on their own schedule, they run into more learning experiences through moments in life. For example, an online student who also works as a lifeguard has the opportunity to perform hands-on activities rather than someone who is in school all day. With this, these students have more time to work and advance their communication skills within the real world.

Children who are successful are also independent. In order to achieve this, students must strive for discipline within their work environment. Whether it's working out before class, drinking coffee before writing a paper, or meditating before a test. These students



have the discipline to do this work on their own and get it turned in on time. With self-discipline, self-growth follows very shortly behind by pushing the student into a field of opportunity for the efforts put into their own education.

### **2.3 Natural Talent and Opportunity**

Through this source, the author's purpose is to ensure the fact that education is on your own time and in your hands. Magda states, "Motivated people will find ways to acquire knowledge without dependency on the instructor(s)." With great talent, there is a great opportunity. Through this article, it was easy to piece together that independence leads to more self-sufficient opportunities. Most people don't discover their natural talent until they find themselves in an opportunity by mistake, or some may never find it (Magda). By using natural talent, children can identify their strengths and weaknesses easily. Identifying one's natural talent is important for the future and what life path the child may continue to follow in the future. By implementing natural talent and the need for opportunity at a young age, the competition will rise, but so will the confidence of the successor.

Not only are these students more efficient and eager for the future, but they must also have the responsibility to complete their assignments on time in their life. This may be difficult for many who struggle with time management skills, but many online students have needed to adapt to the ways of learning that are specific to them. With this, there has to be an underlying agreement between their schoolwork and outside interests.

### **3. Conclusion**

The education system has been sought out for reformation dramatically throughout the years. With complaints and horrific information on the truth of the standard education system, many have chosen to side with online schools. “Most people assume that the basic design of schools, as we know them today, emerged from scientific evidence about how children learn best. But, in fact, it’s nothing further from the truth” (Gray). Within online schools, children are able to become responsible for their right to an education. They hold the benefit of doing their classes on their own time, participating in new activities, becoming more involved in their community, and family traditions. Also, these children have the opportunity for more success compared to those in standard school due to the facts of grit and the need to go above and beyond. Many children lean on their teachers throughout school, while online students take responsibility and reflect it into their work.

### **4. Recommendation**

The information collected for this report was focused on the benefits of online students. Through learning about the different forms and styles of education, we can safely say that all are beneficial. Through my research, I want to highlight the fact that online learning opens superior learning opportunities and stable learning environments for these students. Further analysis would be relevant to explore the exact data taken from scientific studies. As well as the psychological effects of each style of relatively isolated online learning vs the social setting of an in-person school

Having access to current data from children who participate in either type of education style, would be most relevant to include to portray the image depicted.

Greater access to studying students and their behavior inside and outside of the classroom would enable a more thorough analysis to be made.

## 5. Reference List

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## EDITORIAL

For my editorial, I chose to not edit as much as others due to the fact that I took a lot of time to conduct this essay to put off exactly what I wanted to say. I used and depended on the information at hand and used my sources to the fullest extent. I feel that this was the only essay I am confident about this semester. I found new information to add to my essays and it allowed me to decide and find my thesis.

### Why Online Learning is Becoming More Appealing to Students in contrast to In-person Classes

In 2013, Peter Gray had written an article that exposed the many flaws within the education system. Since then, there has been more information on online education and the importance of self-growth. Online learning can provide greater flexibility in instructor-led or self-study courses. (Luaran 2013) Many believe that within the formal education system, problems can be solved by implementing more money, better teachers, and more challenging curricula. This is a failure of the system and the children receiving education within it. In formal education, many freedoms are taken away from students which many adults wouldn't bear to tolerate in their workplace. (Gray 2013)

Scientists have learned that children learn best with enthusiasm. With enthusiasm, the students will be encouraged to grow. This is very rare to find within the formal education system. "Schools, as we know today, are a product of history, not of research into how children learn." (Gray 2013) Self-education makes those eager to learn, find ways to acquire additional skills rather than being taught those said skills. (Magda 2014) Through this Magda states that motivated people will find ways to obtain knowledge without dependency. Many people who find great success are self-sufficient.

Many online students have the ability to be independent due to the fact they have to use diverse time management skills. Time management is related to two metacognitive skills found

within metacognitive literature. (Tullis 2011) These two skills are factors that play a big role in the line of success. First, learners must be able to apply an effective learning strategy to a set of items, with these items they must then, secondly, monitor these items, and report with accuracy. Many students seem to put more time into something that brings difficulty to them than they would an easier assignment or project. With these skills, one can surpass their competition by being self-reliant and willing to make mistakes.

Within the realms of success, one must be unafraid to make mistakes, and with failure comes a lesson to learn. With students learning the process of trial and error, many will see the benefits of failing. For example, it took Thomas Edison over a thousand tries to create the lightbulb. What if he stopped trying after 500... 600...? The world would never come to be as it is.

Throughout time more and more people have found their personal side to education systems. In a survey in accordance with online education, 232 families relayed the experience of their creativity, curiosity, and drive for learning within their children. (Gray 2013) They also described how their life has been less stressful. Homeschooled students are most successful due to their parents being open to new ideas and ways of learning. (Magda 2014) Online education helps children develop a track for specialized skills, and interests, which can lead to careers later in life. (Gray 2013)

Online education by definition, is the use of technology to improve learning, web-based training, and computer-based training. (Luaran 2013) Many students find online learning to be more interactive and exciting in comparison to formal education. The biggest advantage of online learning is students can complete their assignments anywhere at any time. These self-regulated aspects of learning hold vast importance and effectiveness in their education and

achievements. (Tullis 2011) Furthermore, these students have the opportunity to develop into the person they want to become. These students can find their natural talents and gain opportunities through the practice of those natural talents.

In online and formal education there are many advantages and disadvantages. While online education can be very cost-efficient, these students also may be asked to purchase a laptop and or a better internet connection. The advantages of self-growth push past this disadvantage. For example, a mechanic without secondary education will learn more through experience rather than being taught from a book. Magda explains, “new information is needed now, not when it is available in the classroom.” With this, he is unfolding the idea that learning through experience is more beneficial for personal growth and success.

Furthermore, Magda develops the idea and aspect that people may never find their natural talent due to the lack of opportunity. He states that “opportunity is the only way anyone can discover their natural talent and personal interest.” He says this because he believes that opportunity within an academic subject is impossible to find with interest. Many children have many hobbies outside of school that they have to give up for their formal education. Within online education, these children are free to educate themselves in a way never done before. These children can study a new language, learn about their personal background and culture, participate in activities, and have the ability to think for themselves.

While being a learner in life, there are times you may have to become an overachiever to gain success. These super-achievers as Magda states “aren’t dependent on formal education for skills of knowledge.” These super-achievers go and find their own answers for themselves. They use their abilities to the best of their advantage and use their curiosity to fuel a fire of self-education. These successful achievers may follow Magda’s steps of achievement. As you

discover your learning ability and style, start with small goals that draw into your final goal, research and use methods that work for you, experiment, trial, and error are tools for success. Finally, have the ability to be persistent. Things will get tough, but self-confidence can take you much of the way. (Magda 2014)

Within the aspect of online being more effective, many studies have been conducted that come to the conclusion that it is true. Not merely a personal opinion, there is data that shows it to hold. For example, a study was conducted in three sections: demographics of students, students' exposure to e-learning, and the effectiveness of using online learning among secondary school students. (Luaran 2013) The study proves that online learning allows students to have the freedom and flexibility to find opportunities to grow. With this, we can conclude that online learning is very effective for a group of students.

Although online learning is very effective, some students crave in-person or lecture-based courses. These students like the applied structure with their school day schedule. Online students have the skills in time management to a greater extent than students who participate in formal education.

In conclusion, every style of education is beneficial, it really depends on the student's learning style. Although students who participate in online education are shown to hold true that they may have more freedom for an opportunity. These opportunities can lead to future goals and ambitions in life. These students have a true sense of who they are and have the responsibility for their own education and how effective their learning is. Online and formal education are stepping stones for self-growth and self-education, which need to be addressed. Only one's self is responsible for the education one receives through their efforts and goals in life.

## References

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## DESIGN PLAN

### Diving Deeper into the Benefits of Different Forms of Education

Students across the world have different strengths and weaknesses. These differences help shape who we are as people. In the education system, it is important to understand that some students may succeed in an online school rather than in person. Online learning has many benefits, including students being able to spread out their day with what they want to do rather than “go to school”.

I plan to write to an audience of students, parents, teachers, etc. I want to unfold the truth about the many benefits of “non-standard” education. I plan to use conventions to perfect my writing for my final. I will do this by gathering more research and revising my writing in further depth. I have had trouble spots in finding and identifying great evidence to support my claim. So far, I have gone to revise my previous writings.

Through this, I have made changes to how my tone comes across within the writing. I am continuing to find more data to support more intricate points described in my writing. In the next steps of my research and writing process, I will write daily and add to my Final, for Now, Draft to ensure my paper is as drawn out as it needs to be.