

Environment 8520

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Earth in the Balance, Vice President Al Gore said “ the rescue of the environment the central organizing principle for civilization.” In the past 150 years, earth’s resources have been abused and people do not know how to

deal with the effects of not treating the earth right. In Educating for the

Environment: Higher Education’s Challenge of the Next Century, David W. Orr

states that people now being educated must learn how to take care of the planet:

keep the population stabilized, deal with the diminishing ozone layer, protect natural forests, and natural resources, etc. They have to do this all at the same time while they decrease social, ethnic and racial conflicts. The young must, understand the differences between what is good for the earth and not.

They must make wiser choices than the generations before. Educators should

reform the schools to better teach the kids how to deal with the problems with

environment. But educators still educate the young, like there is nothing wrong

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with the planet. People think that technology would help the environmental problems, it may, but the beginning of the problem starts in the mind of the person. It is how the person thinks and feels about the earth. So people must be

taught in the mind so they would understand how to take care of the environment.

It is ironic that all the colleges and universities know about all these environmental problems, and do anything about it. Why don't people with higher

education teach the young as soon as possible? There are three primary reasons:

1) People think that the smallest random fact about something means nothing, but

really, it is part of a really big picture. So people must be educated on these small facts about the environment. 2) Professors are scared to speak out these

problems. Professors talk amongst themselves about planetary problems and don't tell students about it. 3) Colleges and Universities are not responding with "intensity ad ingenuity" because their leaders are not afraid to teach

the young. What does it mean by Colleges and Universities to respond with “intensity and ingenuity?” There are three parts: 1) All education is environmental, it is taught to people and people don't even know it. We are all part of a natural system. The goal of education is not always knowledge, but how you get the knowledge. 2) We want to educate the young because we want them to make things that would fit in earth harmonious with other things. In order to do this, we have to teach them about large patterns. You have to build with the earth, and understand each and every aspect of earth for it to not have any conflicts with earth. This requires a liberal education. 3) You also have to rethink the traditional way of operating, buying, investing and building. a. Operating - Students will make better choices in their everyday operations. And understand the operations such as, how much water is consumed? How much paper is used? b. Buying - Colleges and Universities buy things without

thinking about their environmental impacts. People must be taught on how to buy

things and make better choices to eliminate environmental conflicts as much as

possible. c. Investment – College and Universities invested \$73.9 billion

dollars in 1993, without thinking about the impacts it may cause. You have to

think if it will effect the economy or not. d. Building – Must use stuff that

will not harm the environment. Students must be taught the small details on

construction. To save money and the earth's resources. We are approaching the

year 2000 and earth is getting worse. But we can change that if people are

educated on how to stop the deterioration of resources. But Colleges and

Universities are have done a very small amount to help educate the young.

The

year 2000 is a chance to change everybody, a chance to redesign buildings

to

reduce cost, help the environment, and help stabilize the economy.