

Jeff Bagosy

Ms. Wilde

10/25/02

### **Definition Essay**

Dear, Jim Miller:

My name is Jeff Bagosy, I came in for a job interview last week, and I do not feel that I was given a fair chance. I was turned down for the job, because I did not have the proper education that was necessary. What you did not take into account was my experience in the field. It seems as if it did not matter how much experience I had, because I never went to college. I think that it is wrong to turn someone down for a job if you have not really seen what they are capable of doing. In my opinion, formal education is regarded too highly in most companies. I know what you are probably thinking, "This guy is just mad that he did not get the job so he is lashing out at us through this letter." That is not the reason I am writing to you today. The reason I am writing is not to make you reverse your decision but just to show you that the word education can mean much more than the definition you hold now. I hope that when I am done, you will regard other types of education in a higher manner.

If you think about it, what is education really? "The knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process [1 \(American Heritage Dictionary, p.784\)](#)." Nowhere in the definition does it say that it must be gained in college. What the definition is saying in simpler terms is that education is basically just acquired knowledge. Do not get me wrong, I am not trashing the education that can be gained by going to college, but I do think that grade point average or scores on tests can not accurately judge how well you

will do in that field later in life. Deborah Meier, a former educator, bemoans the current thinking that the definition of being well-educated is your test score. “The skills and qualities most resistant to being measured by tests, she says - initiative, for instance, or responsibility, or critical thinking are the very skills schools should be emphasizing.” (Paulson, p.14)<sup>2</sup>. I agree with the statement made by Deborah Meier, the world has started to measure a person’s education by the results of test scores, and I feel that is wrong. I think that many big businesses have stereotypical views towards people like me. Just because I haven’t been educated in a college does not mean I am not educated in other things for example, the computer. I have been working in front of a computer from the time I left high school. I know my way around computers and the many systems frequently used in the payroll department.

I have had extensive experience with working in the payroll department throughout my life. I started to work at Rohm and Haas in the summer of 1996. At the time I started, I did not really know much about the payroll department, but I was good with computers, which helped me tremendously. The way Rohm and Haas went about hiring for the job was not by only looking at their education but also looking at their experiences as well as their knowledge of the computer and its various systems. Maybe your company should think of incorporating a system like that into your hiring process. I worked at Rohm and Haas for over 4 years until I was let go in the fall of 2000. The reason I was let go was because they were trying to eliminate costs in the company so they had to let some employees go. During those four years, I became very familiar with systems such as Microsoft excel, Microsoft office, and with SAP. These systems are the same systems used by your company. I know that your company likes to hire young

students' fresh out of college because you feel they are better fit for the job because of what they learned in school. That is fine but, there is no guarantee that what they learned will help them in this particular field. Someone can read all the books you want and take all the tests they want, but when it comes down to it, true education can only be gained through practice or experience.

There are many forms of education besides just going to college. Who is to say that education can only be gained in school? Other forms of education are completely overlooked when it comes to trying to get a good job. It seems as if you want to survive in life, you must conform to society's bias view of education. To look at education in this way is like having tunnel vision, focusing in on only one thing and totally disregarding everything around it. There are many different types of education, you can be educated in anything from the guitar to knowledge you have about a certain band. These are all forms of education, granted they are not taught in school but they both fulfill the definition of education. When you put a tag on education as your company does, you are only looking at one aspect of education, rather than the definition as a whole. Even if you are hiring based on education, should not you be hiring the most educated person in that field and not just the most educated in general?

Jim, I am not contesting that you were wrong in your decision. I just wanted you to realize that there are many different types of education, not just schooling. Looking at education this way will make you more open minded when comes down to hiring someone else. This experience has also opened my eyes to other people's ways of thinking. It has helped me to consider other things that I had not considered before this experience. I have learned that people in this world have different views of different

definitions and their meanings. We can't change this but we can open their eyes to new ways of thinking about that particular definition. I hope through this letter I have opened your eyes to the many meanings of education. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read my letter I am sorry we won't get to be colleagues, but maybe it's for the best.

Thank you,  
Jeff Bagosy

### **Works Cited**

1. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 4th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000; pg.784
2. *Amanda Paulson Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor*; **Christian Science Monitor**, Boston, Mass.; Sep 17, 2002; pg. 14