Sample Argument Essay

Most parents want their children to receive a well-rounded education. Students study traditional subjects, such as math, science, English, history, geography, and physical education, but many educators and parents have come to believe that school children should also be taught fine arts subjects. Thus, often school boards offer art, dance, and music, if not as core courses, then at least as extracurricular activities. Although the study and practice of all these arts develop sensitivity and creativity in students, learning music is the most beneficial to all-around student success.

First, music makes a child smarter. Everybody has already heard about scientists or doctors who are also musicians. A child who studies music may not become a genius; nevertheless, several research findings have shown that music lessons can enhance IQ and develop intelligence. One of the most recent and conclusive studies, “Music Lessons Enhance IQ,” was conducted by E. Glenn Schellenberg from the University of Toronto and was published by *American Psychological Society Magazine* in 2004. This work concluded that there was a link in children between the study of music and academic success because music and schoolwork may develop similar problem-solving skills in children.

Furthermore, music education improves a child’s physical and psychological health. Playing music is excellent exercise for the heart, especially for those who play a wind instrument. A child will also learn to stand straight and adopt good posture. Playing music also decreases stress and anxiety. Through music, the apprentices will learn concentration and listening skills. Furthermore, high school students who participate in band or orchestra are less interested in the use of all illegal substances (alcohol, tobacco, and drugs) according to the Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Report. The National Data Resource Center states that about 12 percent of students are labeled “disruptive” whereas only 8 percent of students in music programs has that label.

Finally, music education helps a child’s social development. Playing music may help students connect with one another, particularly through participation in orchestra or a choir. No matter if a child is ugly, poor, bit, or shy, he or she is as important as any other musician in the group. Music is the great equalizer. Therefore, musicians learn how to respect each other, how to cooperate, and how to build constructive relationships with others. When Yoko Kiyuka entered my former high school, she was very shy and lonely. The music program changed her life. The connections she made helped her become integrated into school and feel valued. “Music has the power to unite us. It proves that by working together, we can create something truly beautiful,” said Pinchas Zukerman, Music Director of the National Arts Centre of Canada. Therefore, music may help a child to become a better citizen, another outstanding reason to encourage children to learn music.

Many school boards are removing music education from the curriculum. They argue that music is not a necessary or useful course. However, the benefits conveyed by music education are tremendous. By developing a child’s brain, body, and feelings, music gives the child a better chance to be confident in life. Parents of elementary or secondary school children can play an active role in the success of their children by encouraging them to learn music. Music can make the difference in a child’s life.