

Caitlyn Begley

Mrs. Bowlin

ENG 100 writing 1

22 March. 2013

Religion in Public Schools

Where have you learned about life and God? The answer will probably be church and Sunday school, but what if you had learned that information in school? Would your life change? Think about all of the students and children who have committed suicide and are currently being bullied. If they had learned about religion and life in the future, maybe some of them would still be here. Parents want to know that their child is getting the best education possible, and with religion involved they would be, students would learn and grow off of this information and the teachers would also benefit. The only thing we have to do is involve religion in public schools.

One of the many problems with public schools today is that the criteria that is being taught is unrelated to the students. Many of the students would say that it's boring and won't help them in the future. With religion it will affect you for the rest of your life and can help benefit and let the student grow and be aware of the future. "We learnt about all of the religions from around the world....I thoroughly enjoyed those classes and they have widened my knowledge." (Hill Stefania). This was a testimony of a woman who took a class that involved religion but not nearly enough of it. This clearly shows that the classes were relatable and enjoyable. If we put religion into the public school system then the students can learn about something that could change their lives for the better. What do we have to lose? Religion has

made a huge change in my life; my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Without God in my life I don't know if I could've gotten through it. Religion can and will change lives. Ask yourself the question, why is the school system holding this back from the teachers and students? Don't they want the best for the kids? Religion in public schools will take time and effort but if we all pull together we can change this nation and help many children struggling with decisions and life at this very moment. We don't know what goes on in everyone's day or what their home life is like when they go home, some of those students school is their only safe haven. And even then with all of the bullying on the rise what happens when that safe haven is taken away? Some think about suicide. What if a class involving religion could help them get through their tough years and struggles. We could potentially save many lives. Religion is something you'll need for the rest of your life whether you see it coming or not, so why not embrace this experience in public schools, educating on all of the possible religions and that there is hope for every single person on this earth. If students can learn about religion and that it's not just a building with a cross on it, it involves them and can make their life change for the better. This can and is very easy to add in to everyday school life. Adding in some lessons about different religions around the world and helping explaining the bible, like a bible study class. Students can sign up for extracurricular activities that can involve different religions. You might be surprised how many students show up. This can help make lives better and happier, why hold back?

The history of life included religion. Students only are taught about one simplistic side of history. For example, religion was a huge impact on the settlers that founded the United States;

they relied on God and they thought about the decisions they made and how they would affect Him and what their daily life needed to be better and they prayed and asked for help. This is probably new information to some but you weren't taught that. Only that Paul Revere shouted the British are coming! The government is neglecting to explain about the most important happening in all of history. When Jesus died on the cross, He died for everyone, more importantly for you. All of us. No one thinks about this because they weren't taught this in school. Would that change your life to know that there is someone who loves you unconditionally? The government is choosing not to teach students and their citizens about their Father. If this was taught in schools then students would get a glance at religion in daily life and impact their decisions for the future. If you were a parent wouldn't you be glad to hear that religion can help your child mature and become a better person? Religion doesn't mean forcing children to believe in God, just taking simple and small steps to let them know that someone is there and that they can have a happy bright future ahead of them. "The U.S. National Council for the Social Studies recommends teaching about religion in social studies classes to promote cultural understanding." (Warden 1). With learning this new information, students would be able to get a better understanding of the history of the world and what the first settlers really thought of and what religion in their daily life was like. It would not turn out to be shoving a Bible and making everyone bow down and pray. Teaching religion is that, teaching it. Educating minds about what religion is and the many choices and types of worshiping in different places. Knowing the history of the founding Father and what his son died for will inform everyone and maybe change the way some are living their lives. Do you know what He died for? This doesn't have to be just for the Christian faith, there are many other different types of worshiping that you can choose. Your future is in your hands

but maybe with religion in your life your choices can be more educated and thought over. So ask yourself the question do you know why the government keeps this away from the next generation?

Some may ask, why does this matter to me? How could this possibly relate to my daily life and my family? The simple answer is He is life. Suicide rates are unfortunately raising up in our nation. What about them? What if a simple lesson on religion and that someone was there for them that they would still be on the Earth today? With religion implanted into the public school system these rates would gradually decrease. "Gallup Polls from 2005 and 2006 show that countries that are more religious tend to have lower suicide rates" (Phelman, 1). This quote shows that a difference can be made on the polls with involving religion into the lives of people. So you ask how does this matter to you; think about it someone perished on your behalf and He never knew you. Why not educate everyone on this amazing experience and that everyone is worth so much more than the mistakes they've made. This can relate to daily life because religion can change a life or many. I have lived and experienced a miracle. When my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer my life shattered. I would walk into school, go to all of my classes and see my fellow classmates and teachers they kept going with their lives but I felt stuck in time. Some would ask me what's wrong, but they really didn't care or have anything to say back once I told them what was going on, my family was an emotional wreck, everyday I would cry myself to sleep and scream at God for letting this happen to my mom and family. Life was a blur of moving colors and faces. I went and saw my mom after every surgery and biopsy, seeing her in the hospital bed, she was being strong for everyone but I knew she was scared like everyone

else in the room. Then one day she suggested we try out this local church. While we were sitting in those soft chairs, something hit me while I was listening God loves me and there is a reason for everything in this life. That service strangely was about going through a rough time in life and knowing that someone was there for you. That service made me realize I had hope and my mom was still here. My whole family was uplifted as the light came through the church windows. We kept coming back to the church and talking to the ministers and then my mom had to have a scan to make sure the cancer hadn't spread to the lymph nodes. We all prayed and the results came back negative. During all of this I prayed at night and stopped yelling and crying. I knew that God had a plan and still does. My mom's cancer was cured and she was saved. Without religion to be there for me and my family, I don't think I could've kept going on. It does affect life and always will. If I would've had a class that taught about religion maybe I could've stopped suffering a little faster. Look around, every person you see has an untold story, some may be happy, others in a suffering state. We all carry scars and deep hurting you just have to open your eyes to see it. Religion could change their lives in a place that is so essential to educating and preparing students for the real world. Religion can start you in the right path all we have to do is take one small step. Maybe pray at night or before you eat, then we can take these small steps and involve them in the public school system. We just need a chance and then lives can change like mine did.

Religion is used in day to day life, and has influenced mankind since the beginning of time. Religion in schools can be fun and enjoyable to the students and also reassuring to parents that their child is getting prepared for the future by making the right decisions on the cross roads

of life. It does happen in everyday life, so why not involve it in a place that helps teach and nurture the minds of students in their everyday lives? Religion can help those struggling students in the corner and the child who is being bullied or having a hard life at home. Why are we holding back now when this is the time we need it the most?

Caitlyn,

You should be so very proud of this poignant piece. Definitely your strongest, best work yet! ☺

Citations

Hill, Stefania. *Teaching Religion in Public Schools*. Helium. com 8 Apr. 2008.
Web. 16 Mar. 2013 .

Phelman, Brett. *In More Religious Countries, Lower Suicide Rates*. Gallup.com
3 July, 2008. Web. 16 Mar. 2013 .

Warden, Rick. *The Good of Teaching Religious Curriculum in Public Schools*.
E How mom.com Web. 18 Mar. 2013 .

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E: NM	D: NM	C: PM	B: AM	A: M/E
Demonstrates no understanding of researched academic writing	Demonstrates little progress towards understanding of researched academic writing	Demonstrates some progress towards full understanding of researched academic writing	Demonstrates significant progress towards full understanding of researched academic writing	Demonstrates full understanding of researched academic writing
Demonstrates no development in writing and thinking	Contains less than competent writing and thinking (the piece fails to demonstrate understanding of many rhetorical conventions and lacks some combination of focus, coherence, development, and/or clear expression of ideas, as well as being marred by recurrent, serious usage problems)	Contains merely competent writing and thinking (the piece demonstrates incomplete understanding rhetorical requirements, is somewhat focused and coherent [though the thesis is often trite or self-evident or significantly underdeveloped], and is stylistically unsophisticated and may have some grammatical problems)	Shows measurable development in thinking and writing in a particular genre (the piece demonstrates strong understanding of rhetorical requirements, coherently—though not always fully—develops an interesting thesis, and is stylistically adept in most areas and grammatically appropriate)	Possesses measurable excellence of thinking and writing in a particular genre (the piece of writing demonstrates complete understanding of the rhetorical requirements of a chosen genre, fully and coherently develops an interesting thesis, and is stylistically adept and grammatically appropriate)
Demonstrates no ability to employ research conventions (e.g., lack of appropriate information or plagiarism)	Indicates very limited ability to employ research conventions (e.g., struggling to gather and summarize appropriate information, analyze and synthesize information effectively, or document sources properly)	Indicates limited control of research conventions (e.g., a general ability to gather, summarize, and document information, though not all sources are appropriate or relevant, and sources are frequently not analyzed and synthesized effectively)	Shows significant progress towards control of research conventions (e.g., information may be gathered, summarized, and documented appropriately, but not always effectively analyzed or synthesized)	Shows complete control of research conventions appropriate to a chosen topic (e.g., the ability to gather and summarize, effectively analyze and synthesize, and properly document information from primary and secondary sources that are relevant)

Thanks for sharing your story!

Caitlyn Begley

Mrs. Bowlin

ENG 100 writing 1

15 Feb. 2013

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Religion in Public Schools

By: Caitlyn Begley

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No child should ever have to suffer like this. Prayers for all of you! ❤️

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Excellent proposal, Caitlyn; I'm convinced 100%. Suggestion, though — proposals should also include a specific plan for how the idea can work. For example, how would these classes be offered? As electives? Who would teach them? Can you include some of these specifics in a revision?

*Most importantly: I am so happy & thankful for the good news of your mom & family! 😊

Citations

← Hill, Stefania. "*Teaching Religion in Public Schools.*" 8 April, 2008. Print.

← Phelman, Brett. "*In More Religious Countries, Lower Suicide Rates.*" 3 July, 2008. Print

← Warden, Rick. "*The Good of Teaching Religious Curriculum in Public Schools.*" E How Mom. Print.

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