

### **Topic 1: Autodidacticism**

Autodidacticism means self-learning or self-education. While some believe that training from a teacher is the best way to learn, there are many who choose to study on their own instead. In this essay, I will be pro on autodidacticism and state the reasons for my standpoint.

To begin with, I believe that autodidacts are generally keener to learn their subjects of interest if compared to those who learn from a tutor and the former usually retain a good study discipline too. Autodidacts learn at their own paces and have a variety of sources to aid their studies instead of focusing only on sources and texts preferred by a teacher. Furthermore, autodidacts are exposed to a wider range of influences compared to those who learn from a tutor. In this information savvy era it is not surprising if more people choose to become autodidacts since the Internet makes it possible to learn about almost anything. However, it might be difficult to differentiate facts from fiction when using the Internet as a main source of information.

Some of the most notable autodidacts are John Boyd, Walter Pitts, David Bowie, Socrates, Benjamin Franklin, and Abraham Lincoln. John Boyd was a fighter jet pilot and military strategist who contributed in revolutionizing fighter aircraft design as well developed theories in learning and creativity while Walter Pitts was a cognitive scientist who laid the foundations for cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence, and cybernetics. In addition, there are also many successful filmmakers who dropped out of school and became autodidacts. These filmmakers and auteurs are

Steven Spielberg, Quentin Tarantino, Robert Rodriguez, Woody Allen, and David Fincher.

According to e-zine website, autodidact is a person that learns best, not by being educated or coached, but by connecting their interests with the world in whatever means that work best and that people can be trusted to learn what they need when they have the desire to do so. Autodidacts may seek help from mentors such as someone who excels in a certain subject and parents. In addition, autodidacts are more familiar with their strengths and weaknesses and are able to adapt their learning strategy to better suit their styles compared to those who learn from tutors. Finally, as Winston Churchill once said; “I like to learn but I do not always like being taught”.

References:

<http://autodidact.absurdism.org/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autodidacticism>

<http://www.mislabeledchild.com/html/Library/CreativityFlow/autodidact.html>