



Face Difficulties Positively

By: Stephen on October 14, 2008

This parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule praying or whatever mules do when they fall into wells.

After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together, told them what had happened, and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back, a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back, HE WOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP!

This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up... shake it off and step up... shake it off and step up!" He repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or how distressing the situation seemed, the old mule fought panic and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP!

It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well! What seemed like it would bury him actually helped him ... all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.

THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity.

-Author Unknown



Did You Make a Difference? #GoVote

Why is voting so important for young people? Am I able to go out in November and vote? What do I need to do to register to vote? Read more to find out. The last day to register to vote for the November 21st Election will be on October 21st.

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Searching... Searching... Searching...

Are you currently working? Are you currently in school? If you answered no to either one of these questions, you are in the right place.

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Why is Voting so Important for Young People?

by Natalie E. Tennant, Secretary of State for WV

President Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th President of the United States of America, said, "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

In order to gain an understanding of why voting is so important, let's take a look back at the history of voting rights. Contrary to popular belief, the United States' Constitution did not originally guarantee citizens the "right to vote". The United States was created with the understanding that only certain individuals would make the decisions when it came to government.

There are several amendments to the U.S. Constitution which address the right to vote and who actually has this "right".

14th Amendment– *All persons born within the U.S. are citizens and guaranteed rights and privileges (1868)*

This amendment was intended to give freed slaves the same privileges offered to the white majority in the United States. States were able to get around this amendment by creating Jim Crow Laws and other barriers to prevent minorities from voting.

Jim Crow Laws were requirements for individuals to pass in order to become eligible to vote.

These included:

- **Literacy tests**- *These tests excluded under-educated Americans from voting. This was specifically focused towards African Americans.*
- **Grandfather Clauses**- *A requirement which said if your grandfather was eligible to vote, then you are eligible to vote. This would exclude many African Americans whose ancestors were not eligible to vote because of slavery.*
- **Poll Taxes**- *A fee would be required to vote. The intention is to stop lower income citizens from having a voice in government.*



As you can see, the 15th Amendment did not accomplish what it had originally intended. Minorities still did not share equal rights when it came to voting in the United States.

19th Amendment *No citizen shall be abridged of their right to vote based on sex. (1920)*

This amendment gave women the right to vote.

Generations of women worked tirelessly to gain suffrage. This is by far one of the most important amendments to the Constitution when it comes to voting, because it gave the right to vote to half of the population of the United States. If you are a female and reading this document, you have/will have the right to vote because a battle was fought for you in history.

From protesting and picketing to large rallies, women ignored the resistance of opponents who many times verbally and physically assaulted them. Decades of protest and the will of women to never give up paid off, and today women can register and vote for the issues which they feel strongly about.

24th Amendment – *No poll tax is allowed or failure to pay any other tax shall prevent a person from voting (1964)*

This amendment eliminated some of the Jim Crow laws which were a result of the 15th Amendment.

26th Amendment – *All persons 18 or older shall not be abridged of their right to vote (1971)*

This amendment was passed in 1971 after 11 unsuccessful attempts by U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph (D), WV. Senator Randolph was from Harrison County, W.V. Randolph originally introduced the

bill during his time in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Vietnam War brought up the topic of why can 18 year olds fight and die for our country, yet they are not eligible to vote for the members of congress who send them overseas.

The amendment was also passed very quickly, because it was considered politically dangerous to be against giving troops the rights they deserved during the upcoming election in 1972. The potential for an opponent to rally voters against a candidate were too strong, not to support the amendment.

This amendment is the reason why eighteen year olds and seventeen year olds who will be eighteen by the date of the next General Election are eligible to vote. Seventeen year olds are not permitted to vote in municipal or special elections however.

Voting Rights Act of 1965 – *Applied a nationwide prohibition against the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on the literacy tests on a nationwide basis.*

Finally the barriers to vote were lifted for minorities.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE NOVEMBER 21ST ELECTION IS OCTOBER 21ST.

REGISTER TO VOTE: #GOVOTE

Call the Registrar of Voters Office for more details:

Calcasieu Parish: 337.721.4000

Cameron Parish: 337.775-5493

Jeff Davis Parish: 337.824.0834

Should You Go Back to School?

By Deb Peterson, Continuing Education Expert

Should you go back to school? School is a serious proposition, but a very fulfilling one. Consider these eight questions before making your decision.

1. Why are you thinking about going back to school?

Why is going back to school on your mind lately? Is it because your degree or certificate will help you get a better job or promotion? Are you bored and looking for a way out of your current situation? Are you retired and want the thrill of working for a degree you've always wanted?



Be sure you're going to school for the right reason or you might not have the determination you need to see it through.

2. What exactly do you want to accomplish?

What is it that you're hoping to achieve by going back to school? If you need your GED credential, your goal is crystal clear.

If you already have your nursing degree and want to specialize, you've got lots of options. Choosing the right option will make your journey more efficient and more economical. Know what's involved in getting exactly what you want.

3. Can you afford to go back to school?

School can be expensive, but help is out there. If you need financial aid, do your research ahead of time. Find out how much money you need and how you might get it. Student loans aren't the only option. Look into grants and pay-as-you-go.

Then ask yourself if your level of desire is worth the cost. Do you want to go back to school badly enough to make the work and expense worth it?

4. Does your company offer tuition reimbursement?

Many companies offer to reimburse employees for the cost of education. This isn't out of the goodness of their hearts. They stand to benefit too. If your company offers tuition reimbursement, take advantage of the opportunity. You get an education and a better job, and they get a smarter, more-skilled employee. Everybody wins.

Keep in mind that most companies require a certain grade point average. Like everything else, know what you're getting into.

5. Can you afford not to go back to school?

Investing in your education is one of the smartest things you will ever do. The National Center for Education Statistics collected data in 2007 showing that a 25-year-old male with a bachelor's degree earns a median income more than \$22,000 higher than one with a high-school diploma.

Each degree you earn increases your opportunities for higher income.

6. Is this the right time in your life?

Life demands different things of us at different stages. Is this a good time for you to go back to school? Do you have the time you'll need to go to class, read, and study? Do you know how to manage stress? Will you still have time to work, to enjoy your family, to live your life?

Consider the things you might have to give up in order to devote yourself to your studies. Can you do it?

7. Is the right school within reach?

Depending on your goal, you might have lots of options open to you, or very few. Is the school you need available to you, and can you get in? Remember that getting your degree or certificate might be possible online. Online learning is becoming hugely popular, and for good reason.

Consider which school best matches what you want to achieve, and then find out what their admission process requires.



8. Do you have the support you need?

Remembering that adults learn differently than children and teens, think about whether or not you have the support you need to go back to school. Are there people in your life who will be your cheerleaders? Do you need someone to help you with child care while you go to school? Will your employer allow you to study during breaks and slow times?

Finishing school will be up to you, but you don't have to do it alone.

UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER 7TH

Quarterly Job Fair
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Lake Charles Civic Center
900 Lakeshore Drive
Lake Charles, LA

Call us for more information:

Business & Career Solution's Center
2424 Third Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337.721.4010
TDD: 1.800.947.5277 or 711
Fax: 337.721.4186

“Employment: Come and Get It”

The Business and Career Solutions Center, is here to serve the residents of SWLA. Louisiana Workforce Commission's motto is "We put People to Work." If you are in need of a job, you have options. Log on to LAWorks.net and search for the job of your choice. If you do not have an account you may create one for FREE!

Not tech savvy? It's perfectly okay! You are more than welcome to visit our center and one of our qualified professional team members will be happy to assist you with your job search needs. Call us with any questions: 337-721-4010



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BUSINESS & CAREER SOLUTIONS CENTER
CALCASIEU CONSORTIUM
2424 3RD STREET, 70601
P. O. BOX 1299
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601-1299