

Norville-16-Reflection

The contrast of a Western education and an Asian education is one that seems so simple on the surface. Asian students perform whereas Western students are beginning to fall behind, therefore Asian education must be better for the student. This is a gross overgeneralization and one that the article does a fantastic job of shedding light on. The spotlight on the fact that Asian strengths are Western weaknesses and vice versa makes one think about the culture of each in a new way. It is amazing how Asian cultures don't

just say that they value education; they act on that value That is an interesting thought too,

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Every available resource is used to educate the people whereas in the U.S. we say that we

value education and then devote little to no resources to help with the societal goal. The

line that is striking as a parent is information that in Asian schools parents volunteer to

make the cafeteria work and students clean the school. In the U.S. children are not given

any ownership of the actual school that they attend and neither are the parents I agree with

you. Students would respect the places that they learn in if they were made to feel that it

was part of themselves; that they had personal ownership of the facility. As an educator

the fact that in Asian society "the teacher is the master, the parent is a motivator and

facilitator, and the student is a diligent learner" is a concept that boggles the mind. In the

U.S. the student is the master, the teacher is the motivator, facilitator and in most cases

the surrogate parent You make me laugh, but I know that this is true, which is sad!. I think

that your students who are gifted are very lucky to have you as a their gifted teacher!

Meredith Roberson

Research Methods (F65)

Reflection #1

It has always been interesting to me to learn more about other cultures and their educational standards. I have always heard such great things about Asian education, and this article gave me even more information. For instance, I have heard how polite Korean students are as well as how eager they are to learn. However, I did not know that much of this attitude towards education is a result of the Confucius beliefs I am glad that you have learned something new. For instance, it was interesting to read that Korean teachers are on the same level as a king yes, this is true, but not just Korea, all Asian countries.... If education in the United States was as highly regarded as in Korea, we would see an even better society as a whole. I believe that this is true because as you said in the article, American students are pushed to think creatively. If Americans could maintain the mindset to think creatively, but also adopt a stronger work ethic, as well as a higher regard for education, much would change in our society. It is sad that we are one of the wealthiest countries in the world, but yet we cannot devote more to our educational systems. I do agree that within 50 years, Asian countries will surpass the United States, solely on the fact that we have not devoted enough to education. But, if you can use some of the information or knowledge from the article for your future career in any ways, it would be a good start to change our educational system....

Kristin Sage Wagner
01/24/09

Reflection

Currently, I am a Counseling student working full-time as a Case Manager for Avalon: A Center for Women and Children. Avalon is a shelter for women and families who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness. As a Case Manager and person who highly values education, I greatly relate to the article *Learning from Each Other* (Kim, 2005). At work, one of the problems my co-worker, Deborah and I face is how to help our clients continue their education and trade skills I did not know that you are doing this too. Deborah said that creativity in American education is lacking and that high school drop-outs, some of which we see at Avalon are made to feel stupid because they are not college bound. This is just one problem that American education faces. Deborah and I discussed how American education should adopt one aspect of Asian education where students pick the track/subject that they want to work on Is she a student here too? You are lucky to have a friend who can discuss something like this; all students study the same subjects until they get older and pick a specialization which becomes their career. I also believe that the American education system can learn from Asian education practices where Asian teachers are respected mentors who work closely with parents, students work hard and are persistent in their studies, and schools are better funded for teacher salaries and classroom materials. I believe that if the American school system adopted some of the same aspects of the Asian education system such as encouraging the collaboration of parents and teachers for the benefit of the student, encouraging students to work hard instead of allowing them to be lazy, and giving more funding to schools, many of America's problems including domestic violence and homelessness would greatly decrease I totally agree with you. Women would have the acquired skills to get jobs that pay well and in which they are

interested and if abused, these women would be better able to support themselves and their

childrenIt is very interesting that you say this. In Asian countries actually, even though a lot of women are educated, some of them are still stay at home and are 100% dependent on their husbands.

Tamara Simmons

While reading "*Learning from Each Other*," I have become more aware of how the American school systems have changed and how practices of East Asian education systems have influenced these changes. One of the major changes that occurred was the United States' public schools becoming more dependent upon standardized tests to measure students' success and to compare them with other students [I am glad that you have learned something new](#). All students attending public schools in Virginia and graduating high school in 2005 and henceforth are required to pass a specific number of the Standards of Learning achievement tests in core subject areas in order to graduate. This implementation has markedly impacted the structure of Virginia's school systems in what I view as rather depressing. There are numerous affects of which I am aware and probably some of which I am not. Teachers are less able to be creative and flexible in their teaching as they are merely preparing students to pass these tests by meeting state-specific objectives based upon a statewide timeline [Yes, this is a big problem!](#). Most other subject areas are viewed and/or treated as inconsequential which is apparent as arts programs have become less apparent in the schools [I know this is true too, which is very sad!](#). The major focus on passing these standardized tests not only stifles the creativity of teachers and students, but it also produces students who are not as well-rounded because the major emphasis has been placed on academic achievement. Students are less exposed to the arts, there are less school field trips to various settings to increase exposure, and there are less character building activities within the schools. Our youth are beginning to be identified merely as students such that our schools are less able to foster their complete growth. [But, if you can use some of the information or knowledge from the article for your career in the future in some ways, it would be a good start to change.....](#)

Dawn Skidmore (20)
F65 - Research Methods
Reflection - "Learning from Each Other"
January 23, 2009

I found myself nodding in agreement in several places as I read this article. From 2005-2008, I taught high school English in Loudoun County, Virginia, which I like to call the "suburb of the suburbs of Washington, DC." I remember you saying that My student population was incredibly diverse, and I taught students from South Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan - and those were only the Asian students! (I also worked with kids from El Salvador, Bolivia, Mexico, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Kashmir, among others.) How diverse!

Each of my three years, I taught a "General" level English class, the lowest level available in our division. This class was typically the first English course ESL students would take, either immediately following or concurrently with Advanced ESL. I bet that you would not have any problem with understanding my accent then? These English language learners would populate about half of my class, with the other half coming from American students with low academic performance. I observed many of the differences your article describes. My Asian students were typically hard-working and very high achieving. I was consistently awestruck with the progress they would make in what seemed like a very short time I undertand that.

These students often had a difficult time adjusting to the American school system. Many shared with me that they missed the structure and discipline of their home countries, and it was obvious that their former system had succeeded in educating them. However, after a few months together, I noticed these students growing to appreciate the flexibility and creativity in my curriculum How wonderful that you witnessed or know that! Their personalities shone through, they started taking more risks in their writing assignments, and they smiled and laughed more often. I believe that these students benefitted from juxtaposing the two educational settings. Now I only

wish the American educational system and culture could combine the effort and discipline of Asian systems with the individuality of American schools to truly create an exceptional experience for our students. I am 100 % for sure that you have been and will be contributing to our future American system by changing a lot of people's lives in your career!

Tamisha Williams
January 24, 2009
Reflection on "*Learning from Each Other*"

As a former teacher in the Henrico County Public School System of Virginia, I found this article to be very insightful; answering many of the curiosities I had about education systems overseas I am very happy that you have learned something new. I have often said to my colleagues and friends, who are mostly educators, how America needs to learn from the successes of other's educational systems. I feel that our country needs to humble itself and realize that while it is great in many aspects, we lack greatly in the area of education.

I grew up in Richmond City and went to public schools that always seemed to lack necessary funding. I went to church with students from other counties, who on the contrary received laptops at their school, when my school didn't have enough working computers. This unequal access to technology and funding fueled anger in me. I often wondered why a government so powerful did not take over the education system nationally to unify what students were learning and disperse equal and fair funding across the board Because of some stupid leaders before. But, now, we are changing, right?. The success that East Asian countries have with their national uniformity of the curriculum should serve as a model to America.

I was also highly interested in the section describing the relationship among teachers and students. I would very much like to spend some time in an East Asian country to experience the respect that was so lacking in the classrooms and school environment that I taught in If I see any opportunities for you to be able to visit, I will let you know. Parental support was lacking, however parent acceptance and denial of ignorant behavior by the students increased each year.

I enjoyed reading this article as I have always been interested in the comparison of America's education system to the successful education systems around the world. Because you have cultural awareness!! See you are different, right?

Reflections on “Learning From Each Other:
Creativity in East Asian and American Education” (2005), by Kyung Hee Kim

Though learning specific details about the nature of education and cultures in East Asian countries, because I have taught outside the United States (in Europe) and am active in international education, I found little surprising You are the first student who has ever said “little surprising” about the assertion that culture plays a major role in encouraging or discouraging creativity in schools (Kim, 2005). Though probably to a lesser degree than in East Asian countries, most European countries have cultures and traditions of education that place heavy emphasis on the attainment of knowledge and respect for teachers, which discourage creativity, discussion, critical thinking, or open debate. Not an untypical comment by a European about an American is that the American “knows less,” but is creative in their approach to problems. As a teacher at an international school, I was originally surprised how uncomfortable students new to our school and fresh from the local national system were with the (Anglo-) American approach (though virtually always, after several months these students assured me that they never wanted to go back to the local national approach).

Emphasis on culture, however, can obscure as much as can clarify. Anthropologists warn us that when we talk about culture, we are talking about fiction. Specifically, they warn us that we tend to “exoticize, essentialize, and totalize,” that we focus on particular attributes of a supposed culture and make it exotic, different I have never thought about it in this way. Then, we essentialize that cultural characteristic by reducing the culture to the exotic feature and by ignoring evidence to the contrary – we make it the essence of the culture. Then, we totalize by attributing back to the culture

this essence, coloring all our perceptions of what we see there (Ayers, 1996). In her treatment of Korea, I question how much K.H. Kim has “essentialized, exoticized, and totalized” the Confucian aspects of East Asian and especially Korean society: is there no social or familial tension there (cheating spouses, divorces, disobedient children, students who do not want to study, etc.)? Are there not creative, rebellious, or back-talking children? Of course there are some. But, remember? The article is not based on my personal opinion; rather, it is based on research studies.... In general, or statistically speaking-----

Concrete social and economic factors may be at least as much at work in shaping educational emphasis on creativity. In the United States, despite its tradition of local school control, in the 1920s through the 1950s, there was considerable uniformity in American schools, which were largely conservative, knowledge-oriented and philosophically essentialist, with a heavy emphasis instructionally on rote memorization (John Dewey was reacting to the cultural dominance of this “industrial” model and essentialist philosophy). With the exception of the 1950s, these were also very lean years economically for much of the United States. Hints of change began in the 1950s, when mass affluence began to emerge, but schools remained largely essentialist as memory of the Great Depression still resonated. In the 1960s, however, during a period of tremendous broad-based prosperity, an equally tremendous shift occurred away from essentialism to experimentalism (as an educational philosophy). Schools began to place greater emphasis on student voice, student choice of subject matter, and progressive instructional approaches. Since the late 1970s, when the economic

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fortunes of Americans were fundamentally changing, there has been a slow but steady march backward toward essentialism in our schoolsDo you know that you remind me of the American Education History that I took when I was in a Ph.D. program in Korea University?

The clarion call began with *Nation at Risk* (1983) and received structured force with NCLB. As economic opportunity weakens (comparatively speaking), we are decreasing the amount of creativity teachers and students are encouraged or can, given the constraints of time, to display in the classroom. Thus, these shifts may be driven as much by the cold hard facts of economic opportunity as culture.

In Europe, which was several decades behind the United States in terms of mass affluence, economic realities played a significant role in shaping both the availability of education and its philosophical underpinnings. Prior to World War II, few students in northern Europe went beyond middle school; in southern Europe few got past the third grade. Since World War II, many more students began to complete high school, but it was not until the 1980s that attendance at university was beginning to reach levels attained by the United States in the 1960s. Shaped by generations of difficult economic circumstances, Europeans wanted schools that provided the knowledge that could advance the economic interests of the student and their families. In this context, creativity had a lesser place. However, my impression now, based upon the growth of native populations in international schools – largely shaped by the Anglo and American approaches to education – is that as Europeans reach the prosperity levels of the United States, they aspire to a system that is less authoritarian and rigid. Just as the weakening of affluence has made Americans more educationally conservative, the arrival of mass

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affluence has pushed Europe in the other direction. Time will tell whether in Europe the new global economic crisis will slow down this change of direction.

For the US, however, what I am suggesting here, if true, would be its own clarion. Today, the United States and the world face many intractable problems that modernist strategies, thinking, and knowledge seem unable to solve. If our educational system entrenches behind knowledge-based instruction whereby teachers employ “drill-and-kill” strategies to help their students pass state and federal tests, students are unlikely to develop the creativity necessary to help solve these problems This is a really big problem. The assertion that “creativity” is merely a byproduct of culture could diminish the urgency necessary to maintain programs, instruction, and teachers that foster creativity You are right about that. And, since arguments based upon culture might suggest it is something Americans already possess, that is, something intrinsically American, they will do little to generate the political will necessary to resist “silver-bullet” strategies such as mandatory testing and a national curriculum or the will to maintain school budgets in the face of declining tax revenue. There is a “truth” about culture, to be sure, but cultures can change Of course, I believe that. That happens not by talking about culture, which is too amorphous for programmatic action, but at a more concrete level.

I told you to write only one paragraph, but I have enjoyed reading your thinking. You are definitely SOMETHING!

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Raven Adams

Prof. Kim – EDUC F65

24 January 2009

Learning From Each Other Reflection

I really enjoyed reading the assigned article. It flowed extremely well, made a lot of sense, and more importantly, had me thinking throughout I am glad that I have you thinking!. Personally, I have always admired East Asian culture, especially that of education But, remember there are also weaknesses too. The definition of education is universal; however, it is obvious to note the differences when you compare the United States to East Asian countries. I feel Dr. Kim raised many valid points throughout this article. I found it interesting to see the differences each culture had on school funding. You always hear people in the media stressing the importance of funding for schools and education, yet nothing changes I agree with you 100%. Why? It feels like the elephant in the room. In this country we have other interests I guess. We just saw over \$300 billion go to bail out the banks and mortgage companies. What if that had been used for education? It seems like such a simple principle. In East Asia, due to the high emphasis on education resulting from the practice of Confucianism, there in return is an increase in economic growth. I do not believe it gets more basic than that. The better educated an individual is, the more he or she can bring to the overall growth and success of society; and isn't success something we all vie for? In the United States we are facing a proclaimed "economic crisis". It makes me wonder if this crisis could have been prevented, if we had more funding and stronger beliefs in our educational system like that of East Asian countries As long as you can use some of the information or knowledge from the article for your future profession, it will be a good start to change the educational system.

Reflection on the Reading - Amy Blackburn – January 23, 2009

Extremes of any nature rarely lead to optimal results, and no system is so good that new ideas cannot improve upon it. In East Asia and the United States, two very different educational systems, cultures and sets of values have broadly different effects on the children who will grow up to live in those societies. I agree that a combination of the most positive aspects of East Asian and American educational systems could be an improvement on both, accentuating creativity, higher-level thinking, successful learning for all and self-discipline, while minimizing a stifling and rigid system without allowing the inmates to run the asylum. (This is a slang term. ☺)

Remember? You are supposed to explain. Otherwise, I have to look for the words on the slang dictionary. But, unfortunately it is at my office ☹) Creativity and innate intelligence must be tempered by external discipline and ultimately self-discipline, so that people can focus their abilities toward constructive and meaningful ends Yes, you are right! Hard work and the ability to persevere in the face of challenges will create success far more often for the typical person of any nation than genius or creativity in a lazy or unfocused person. Creativity, while it often challenges the status quo, is not necessarily antithetical to respect and order. It is hard to be creative in the midst of chaos. Neither is creativity invariably good. Our current international economic crisis would have been less likely if lenders had been a little less creative?? with their mortgage offerings and the relevant agencies had been a little more diligent in their oversight of the banking and finance industries. Ideally, a student will be smart, creative, work hard, and understand the value of balance and play. I am glad that you think of this in depth! If we could figure out a way to meld the best of both worlds, it truly would be a better education for East Asian and American students. We must understand and appreciate cultural differences - otherwise the world would be a boring place indeed. Nonetheless, the exchange of ideas for mutual improvement can only help our children's education and our world, which they will soon

be running. Now, you know the strengths and weaknesses of each culture, if you can use some of the information or knowledge for your future career, it would be a good start to change our educational systems better...

Jordan Coiner
January 24, 2009
ED F 65
Dr. Kim

This article opened my eyes to a lot of the differences that exist between East Asian and American cultures in educational characteristics and policies. I have very little knowledge of East Asian culture and expectations, so it was amazing for me to learn about some of the policies. For example, the respect that is shown to teachers and support given to a student by family is certainly something that is not a parallel in American society Yes, that was the first thing that I noticed as soon as I came to U.S. nine years ago. The power and prestige of a teacher was further exemplified by the statement that teacher-student relationships are seen as an extension of the relationship between mother and child. Another issue this article made me think about was the amount of money invested in education. I was surprised by the fact that East Asian cultures conserve money by having students clean the school or use public transportation so that the money saved may be allocated for necessities, such as teacher salary or textbooks. I don't think this idea would ever be adopted in American society I do not think so either, yet there is a definite problem with low teacher salaries, low teacher morale, and high teacher turnover Yes, this is a serious problem. I was also very interested by the information on creativity. Creativity is an extremely important value to me. I believe that creativity allows for a person to become someone different and unique, and without this, a person could be seen as just another boring robot without any special or defining characteristics I agree with you. As I read through the creativity information, I thought of my own experiences in Odyssey of the Mind I am so happy that you have had the experiences in elementary school, and indeed it was later identified in this article as an American program fostering creativity. While East Asian cultures certainly have a lot of well-developed standards that are indeed producing very bright children, it seems that

children may be at risk for not becoming as self-aware of deeper self-exploration or inner

expression Yes, that is what they have started changing.. Now, I know why you are interested in art or art therapy. The Odyssey of the Mind must be effective in terms of students' creativity...

The article we read this week highlighted the differences between the American education system and the East Asian education systems. What stood out to me was the stark differences between the two systems, each having its benefits and its disadvantages. The end of the article states that each system would be improved by adopting some strategies of the other system. What I thought about was the way cultural differences have inhibited that borrowing of strategies. My reaction was that the rigidity of East Asian learning could not be beneficial to all students, because students have different learning styles I totally agree with you. I recognize that my reactions are westernized and therefore may be inappropriate for generalization, but I think the less structured atmosphere of American classrooms gives the teacher the opportunity to identify what methods of teaching are most effective on each student. I also thought about the importance of education in East Asian cultures and how the position of teacher is more prestigious in their society. I do think that is an ideal that we as Americans should adopt. I believe as a country we recognize the value of our teachers and the importance of education, but then we refuse to fund the system properly Yes, we need to spend more money on Education. The majority of our most intelligent citizens are not looking to make a career in teaching (when they can make more money in other fields), and I agree with the position voiced in the article that this lack of competition for teaching positions is detrimental to the system. I learned a lot about East Asian education through this article, and I did feel disappointment about some aspects of the American system because of it However, no educational system is perfect!. By using some of the information or knowledge from the article for your future career, we can make it better...

Jodie Davis (#5)

In "*Learning From Each Other*," you've presented a very thorough and very interesting picture of the differences between the American education system and the East Asian education system. This is a very interesting thought. To me, it seems to be a classic case of the battle between nature and nurture. In America, we practically bend over backwards to make sure that every child receives an education based on his/her innate, natural abilities to learn. We have gifted programs, Advance Placement classes, remedial programs, Special Education programs, magnet schools, and inclusion programs. Not to mention home-schooling! The choices are endless. As part of our teacher training, we are taught to learn each child's style of learning, so that we can prepare lessons that teach to each child in the classroom. I was once told by a previous pastor of mine that she designs her sermons so that every SEVEN minutes, she changes the delivery method of her sermon. I should do that too, in the hopes of reaching more of the congregation.

On the other hand, the East Asian education system seems to fall completely on the nurture side of the argument. Teacher preparation, parental support and a national curriculum are established, assuming that these things will be enough to ensure each child's success in school. Accommodations are rarely made for individual differences.

But then, as with the developmental theory of nature vs. nurture, one has to contemplate which is true (or more effective, as in this case). But most of the time, the answer is usually both. It's the combination of nurture AND nurture that seem to be most effective in ensuring a healthy child's development. And, in this case, it would appear that some combination of the American and the East Asian systems would probably be successful. If you can use some of the information or knowledge from the article for your future career or for educating your children, it would be a good start to combine....

Hope Deighton

This reading was very interesting and informative. Asians and Asian-Americans are often stereotyped as geniuses and over-achievers. While it is unfair to make such generalizations about an entire population, the article shed light on the differences in achievement between East Asian and American students and the cultural norms that help explain the achievement gap. Two points in particular stood out to me: The difference in beliefs about ability and the effects of the educational system on creativity.

East Asian culture views ability as stemming from effort and determination, while many American parents and education leaders claim it is due to intrinsic individual differences. This has major implications for the classroom
Yes, these (the views on ability) have very important implications for the two educational systems. As I was reading the discussion of effort and ability in the article I was reminded of the frustration I often felt in school because the teachers were teaching to the lowest common denominator. Teachers did not expect certain students to understand advanced material, thus it was not taught so as not to be “unfair” to those students with perceived lower ability I totally agree with you.

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What I found most interesting about this paper was its consideration of creativity. If one looks solely at academic achievement then it might appear to some that the East Asian system of education is superior to the American system in all or most regards. I admit that before reading this article I made the same mistake of only considering the effects on math and science knowledge, but education should not be defined so narrowly. It is important to realize that there is also great importance in creativity and originality I am so happy that you value creativity, which means that you will not live a boring life.. Overall, I finished the article with a deeper understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each system, a greater respect for the cultural

differences and the people who are a product of those differences, and the knowledge that there is much to be learned from each other. If you can use some of the information or knowledge for your future career, it would be a good start to learn from each other.

Betsy Dye
1/24/2009

The article *Learning from Each Other* (Kim, 2005) was in some ways difficult as a native born American to read. While it was humbling to reflect on the shortcomings of our educational system, the article held many thought-provoking ideas and points.

At first, this article seemed to over generalize American culture. Remember? The article is not my personal opinion. It is based on a lot of research studies. Thus, it is not true to everybody. Rather, it is true in general or statistically..... Due to its diverse population racially, ideologically, culturally, and geographically, it is a challenge to generalize Americans in any way. However, after reading the article more thoroughly, some of these generalizations hold true; specifically concerning individualism and the miniscule funding for education. Moreover, some of these differences may also be attributed to gender inequality and the increasing need for both parents to work in modern day America.

The broad comparison between American and East Asian cultures in relation to individualism and collectivism was fascinating. While I am very much aware of this cultural difference, the influences and effects on each educational system never crossed my mind in such depth I am glad that you are aware of them now. The high esteem to which teachers are held in Asian cultures makes complete sense to me. They are not only teachers but mentors, counselors, and advocates that are not limited to teaching information I will be like this but also cultural heritage and social mores. This mentorship along with heightened status in the community is one major difference between teachers in America and East Asia Yes, you are right.

The end of the article completely convinced me that a synthesis of the two styles of education is imperative for a superior form of education and learning. The question is, however, how this would be possible: legislation, restructuring, shift in ideologies, reallocation of funding,

or something else. Now that we know the importance of a blend between the two, how do we get

there? If you can use some of the information or knowledge from the article for your future

career, it would be a good start to get there...

REFLECTION ON THE READING

I found the article to be interesting and informative and proposed research and ideas did provide me with a lot to reflect on. As I read the article I made notations about what I thought as I thought it and I will reveal those thoughts here. Initially I was confused by the statement that there is a “ [disheartening] lack of enthusiasm about education shown in the West...” (Kim, 2005). I always felt that in America everyone knows the value of education and it is promoted by all. However, as I delved deeper into the article I realized that you were not saying at all that we don’t value education but that the way it is dispensed of in comparison to some East Asian countries may be less enthusiastic. But, does not forcing a student to learn a certain way really mean that we aren’t enthusiastic about education? I do agree with the fact that a higher level of respect for educators needs to be instilled in children. I have an aunt and uncle who are teachers and they both have expressed on several times how rude and disrespectful students can be, starting in *elementary* school Even in elementary schools? and how it doesn’t help to go to the parents about their behavior because, unfortunately, that’s obviously who they got it from. Further, while it is unfortunate that many students forgo further education in order to work, it is not always a choice, but a necessity for them to do so. Right now I am in so much debt it is ridiculous and when I graduated high school the more practical thing to do may have seemed to be to go into the workforce but my parents did not want me to do that. They wanted me to be the first in my family to get a college education and I’m so glad I did I am so glad too. As I told you, I am the first in my family to get a college education. I thought the idea of reassessing how we spend our educational funds in America would be very beneficial; yet, I don’t think many would take kindly to the idea of walking to school as we have become a bit spoiled I realized that too. Increased carpooling might be a suggestion that would be taken more seriously.

Finally, I did think it was unfortunate that alternate ways of teaching are not utilized more in East Asia since it has been proven that individuals learn differently. It would be amazing to see just how much more some East Asian students would develop creatively and in other ways if other avenues of learning

were provided them. I have a lot more reflection on the article but since this can only be one page I will
stop here You are funny! We can talk more about this later in person too.

Each system Asian and American has strengths and weaknesses that help it excel and hinder it at the same time. I thought it was interesting reading about the cultural significance of education in Asian cultures as opposed to American culture. In American culture the educational system has been there for many years and is taken for granted by many. In Asian cultures it seems to be an honor to attend school. The Asian culture has elevated the role of educator to that of king; therefore whatever they say is accepted without question. This hinders individualism and produces people with little creativity Yes, you are right. Their emphasis on rote learning creates good test takers, but also stifles the individual spirit. American society prides itself on having the best educational system in the world but year after year many simply drop out yes, this is a big problem. Creativity, individualism, and higher order thinking are hallmarks of the American system, but it has a population that seems to be unable to compete on the global stage and need more training. Both cultures need to find the right balance of rote learning, creativity, and individualism to produce the best student's possible educational system and is turning out mediocre students. If you can use some of the information or knowledge for your students' it would be a good start to have a balance...

Holland_10_Reflection

While reading the article, I was impressed with how much American education values creativity as opposed to East Asian education. I suppose that it is something that I have just taken for granted having grown up in this country and gone through its education system. Being able to discuss, explore, and disagree with one's teacher and peers helps promote actual learning in my opinion, not just memorization Yes, I totally agree with you. That is one of the reasons why I teach in the U.S. It helps you reach a mental place where you can think on your own and develop your own ideas. The article lead me to believe that East Asian education systems are geared more towards testing than learning to think on your own, which is not how I see a good education system. However, there are things aspects of East Asian education that I feel can be better incorporated into the American system. As was pointed out in the article, American families need to place more importance on education. While some families do, many still view it as something that they legally have to do. If the parents do not value education, the children will not value it. As the daughter of an elementary school teacher, this is something that I have seen many times. If a student is not taught to value his or her education at home, he or she will not put the effort into it at school Yes, it is very true. As a final thought, I just wanted to say that I believe American educators and policymakers should be cautious when enacting such policies as the National Education Act and the No Child Left Behind Act. While the initial thought and reasoning behind these acts are positive, you begin to run the risk of simply "teaching to the test" and losing the value that is placed on creativity, which makes our education system special. There needs to be

a balance struck between making sure standards are met and continuing to encourage creativity. If you can use some of the information or knowledge for your future career in any ways, it would be a good start to have balance in our educational systems.

Reflection on Reading

EDUC F65

Thomas "TJ" Jones

January 24, 2009

After reading the article; *Learning from Each Other: Creativity in East Asian and American Education* by Dr. Kyung-Hee Kim, I was left asking myself; what do we do to improve the educational system in the United States? The first half of this article provided a snapshot into East Asian educational values and a critique of education in the United States, highlighting high school drop outs and funding comparisons. The author appeared to generalize According to research, yes I can. Remember, the article is not based on my personally opinion? Statistically speaking, yes... East Asian as Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Korea, and Taiwan (East Asian Five Dragons). Are these societies similar enough to categorize together for the purpose of education? Korea is divided into two countries, one democratic, and one communist. Yes, it is a good point. Additionally Hong Kong and Singapore spent many years under British rule, what effect does that have on education in these countries? How does education in Southeast Asia differ or does it? If we can generalize Asian cultures for the purpose of education, can we do the same with other Anglo-western countries, like Canada, the United States, and Europe or is the European model more diverse and that much different? I suspect so. I finished this article wanting to know what next. I like your attitude. Very futuristic! A problem-solver. I think that if you can use some of the information or knowledge from the article for your future career, it would be a good start to change----- What does the United States do to improve its educational system, with a focus on primary and secondary public education? The creativity piece of this article was a nice comparison between cultures, but the problems that face the American public educational system should be the focus of solutions. A noteworthy observation

of this article is the emphasis of the East Asian countries on teachers, with less money spent on other school programs such as food preparation, transportation, and janitorial services. I believe that these cost-benefit measures are a way that public schools could shift resources towards teachers from other areas that do not directly affect learning.

Denise McCuiston

In my “other” life I was an elementary school teacher in Utah. Classrooms had between 35-40 children in each and discipline was mostly non-existent. After reading your article it made me wish I had been a teacher in Korea rather than the US. [You make me laugh!](#) I was one of those teachers who would argue, cajole and pretty much “beg” parents to become involved in their children’s schooling [I understand](#). I have experienced first-hand the American “my child would never....” crisis. I witnessed a boy beat up another boy, unprovoked, and when the parents were called into the school they threatened to sue the school for saying such “terrible” things about their “sweet baby” [I know situations like this very well](#). As a mother I have worked very hard at always being available to my children’s teachers and having regular communication with them. I sit with my children after school nearly every day to review their assignment and they, in turn, have helped me study for my exams [I know you are a wonderful mother](#). Education is a collaborative effort in our home, a degree is expected and learning new things is considered exciting. I agree completely with Korean [not just Korean, most of Asian](#) philosophy that education is vitally important in a child’s future, particularly early education. A society that willingly puts forth such effort is truly remarkable from my standpoint. I had no idea, thank you for this insight! [If you can use some of the information or knowledge for your future career in any ways, it would be a good start to change out educational system...](#)

Philip Mitchell

Reflection 1

After reading the article on differences among Asian and western educational institutions, it is apparent that the role of the teacher in eastern cultures is of greater importance than in western counterparts. The article explains how eastern educational institutions place a high value on the capacity for mentoring students. This includes classroom instruction, but also incorporates moral guidance as well Yes, it is a very important part of teachers' role. A more personal relationship with a teacher often results in a higher respect between students and instructors and leads to less conflict inside and outside of the classroom. Consequently, teachers are often involved in the personal lives of students, and as a result have a far greater impact on their students' lives than in western countries I am glad that you think so. So, would you allow me to be closer to you?.

In many ways, this system of education can be beneficial to the student in many ways. Firstly, young people receive the benefit of an instructor's moral support and guidance in addition to that provided by their parents. Secondly, the mutual respect between teachers and students ensures that class time will not be wasted on disciplinary activities.

However, I also wonder how the eastern student-teacher relationship affects creativity. Since students receive instruction from parents and teachers, does the additional moral guidance from instructors prevent students from furthering exploring their personal creativity in a wholly collectivistic culture? If young people in eastern cultures receive little encouragement to think outside the box does the "intense" student teacher relationship further hinder that progress This is a really good thought, which I have not thought about yet? This will be one of my future research topics. ☺

Allison Mock

Reflection: "Learning from Each Other"

I appreciated many of the ideas put forth in this article, and have made similar observations throughout my own experiences. I spent the part two summers teaching English in rural Taiwan and was amazed by the amount of respect I received from the local communities. My students never questioned my authority even though only a few years separated our ages. Countless families – parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles – invited me to share meals with them That is what I do too. It was through these visits that I began to realize the degree of importance placed on education in Asia. It is truly admirable. All of my students put forth their best efforts on each and every assignment, and I never once had to correct a child's behavior. I wish American students would do the same. However, I also agree that Asian countries can learn from the American education system. One of my greatest disappointments during my stay was that my students were often afraid to voice their opinions and sometimes even seemed to lack the ability to formulate their own views WOW! This is exactly right. Not many Asian people know this though.. When I asked them what they thought about a particular situation or idea, they almost always responded with a question of their own. "What do you think about this, Teacher?" While I was honored and humbled by their respect, I wished they would have learned to disagree with me I grew up in exactly the same environment, that is one of the reasons why I am so happy to teach in the U.S.. If only there was a way to blend these two systems to form one that includes the best aspects of each one! Because you do have cultural awareness, you are already one of the future leaders for the better American educational system!

Kari Norris 15

The most distinctive dilemma the article “Learning From Each Other: Creativity in East Asian and American Education” poses is the inherent fact that to have the academic integrity and successes as seen in the East Asian population the educational system has to sacrifice is creativity. It is finding a happy median that proves difficult for educational systems worldwide. While I do not strongly agree with such a hierarchal and **militaristic** **This is a good word for the system** approach to education, there is much that can be learned from the East Asian cultures support of the system. American families take less interest in assisting children with their homework either that or they do the work for the child since they do not believe in “excessive” amounts of work outside of class. How is it that a child will remain focused and interested in school when the American society places such little emphasis on formal education? There is such a distinct difference between American and East Asian cultures support of educators. Many teachers in elementary and middle school levels are having to “teach to the test” now, which takes away from the potential a child can gain from the classroom setting. It can be stifling to a child’s creativity to have to teach a child material to memorize so they may pass the national standardized tests **Yes, this is a big problem right now.** I think early in education the child is allowed to be creative and then slowly as the child goes through elementary school they begin to learn more strict standardized information. It is not until one reaches college that they begin to get to explore other options and to think outside the box **Some people never do.** For me, knowledge and educational growth has not come solely from the teacher. Interactions with my peers as well as the teacher formed a collaborative process that has aided me in developing a much deeper understanding of the material being taught **I am glad that you have done this.** I really found it uplifting to hear how other cultures do value education and hold it in high regard. I hope at some point in this country we will have adopted some of the East Asian ideals and attitudes. **If you can use some of the information or knowledge from the article for your future career, it would be a good start to adept....**

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