



SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE LIBRARY'S 3RD ANNUAL INFORMATION LITERACY MONTH CELEBRATION OCTOBER 2016

1st Runner Up Essay Contest Winner: Diamond Kelley

Diamond Kelley

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Power in Knowledge

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” This profound assortment of words by the past Ghanaian Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, rings true to the highest degree of reality. It is an indisputable fact that knowledge truly gives individuals the power to sustain themselves and their society into greater beings. Our current president, Barack Obama, also acknowledges the truth in this statement in his declaring October the month of Information Literacy Awareness. The countless benefits to such a topic can produce mass improvement for the American people if used correctly. And the only correct way to utilize information literacy is to read and comprehend effectively.

In essence, the importance reading and comprehension possess in pertaining to information literacy is one of great value. In regards to reading, there are thousands of self-help books and articles online that can provide people with the information they need to get through the challenges of daily life. To acquire this information, one must be willing to read to process it. A teacher searching for the best ways to teach a class with varying learning techniques cannot solely console him or herself for the best capable solution. They must read about the differences of styles from visual to auditory teaching techniques. Only through taking the time to carefully read, the most efficient proposal can be produced.

Similarly, one must be able to not only find but critically evaluate information to apply it to their lives. For instance, a medical student seeking to become a physician cannot simply read the material they need to pass an exam. To successfully become a physician they must mentally grasp the concepts to comprehend what to do in certain immediate cases. This is what comprehension pertains to. Reading forms a mutualistic bond with comprehension as both are needed to help an individual make informed decisions about life.

To sum things up, it is evident that information literacy holds an exceedingly beneficial importance to the nation. If the president imposes such a decree upon the nation, that in itself displays such a significance. But nothing, no matter how helpful or useful it is, can be acquired to its' full potential unless it is used correctly. This is why reading and comprehension are essential to information literacy. By the use of these critical skills, one will be able to improve the environment, interpret life situations better, and have more accountability over the welfare of not only their lives but society as well.