

DO WHAT YOU LOVE

Youth Leadership Project

2018

Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders





1. Introduction

Do What You Love is an empowerment program promoting youth education through philosophy, personal leadership, social contribution and life skills. The target ages are high school youth from grade 10-12 in Braamfontein. Comprehensive activities mentor and guide learners through cultural education and world philosophy for modern day application. Learners gain personal development, thinking skills and volunteer experience aimed at integrating them as active contributing citizens into society.

The high school learner in South Africa, is in search of intra-personal navigation. Generation Y are bombarded with a world of sensory stimulation and have a gaping need to understand why and how they can make the world a better place. Philosophy can help provide the answers. Our goal is to effectively support social education through personal leadership, and provide a safe space to explore these difficult questions with wisdom from past philosophers applied in the daily context.

2. Purpose

The need for such a programme is evident in the social issues youth experience, from peer pressure; charting their path to maturity; understanding their masculinity and femininity; anti-social behaviour; all of these are exacerbated by no support for the basic mental and emotional roller coasters youth experience and lack of role models and mentors to guide the high school learner adequately through this malaise of understanding one's place in the world with a positive outlook.

The National Development Plan 2030 states that: "Education, training and innovation are central to South Africa's long-term development. They are core elements in eliminating poverty, reducing inequality and the foundations of an equal society. Education empowers people to define their identity, take control of their lives, raise healthy families, take part confidently in developing a just society, and play an effective role in ... governance of their communities.

The psychosocial well being of learners from early childhood to higher education is ... central to the success of a ... quality education system."

DWYL (Do What You Love, Do Not Waste Your Life) is a programme which will focus on dealing with these issues in an efficient manner - philosophy is an umbrella of topics designed to present the world to a learner in a theoretical manner in which one can perform thought experiments for possible solutions. This in turn activates ones thinking skills equipping life decision capacity for further self development; from completing grade 12 to pursuing careers; and facing both the inner and outer challenges of the young adult world.



3. Project Description: DWYL Do What You Love

DWYL ran as a pilot in Ferndale High and Alexandra Secondary School for a period of 1 year in 2012-2013.

We facilitated learning in 18 meetings throughout the year after school hours, once a week. Lessons were knowledge based, interactive and practical. During the year leaders conceptualised, organised and ran a social upliftment programme. We brought both real problems to learners and workshopped how to solve them through applying philosophical ideals (from justice, equality and democracy), principles and values that make one an active contributory citizen in South Africa. The result was successful, some learners continued seeking mentorship, displaying this gap in our social education.

A. Goals and Objectives

Philosophy is the study of life, virtue, art, politics, social norms and how we are to live within these parameters. The goal is to reach the restless young mind exploring these deep questions and ideas; deal with them directly and provide an open platform to deepen the transitional process from high school to the next chapters of social integration. The links below show how the international world is using (or proposing the benefits of) philosophy to revolutionise education.

<http://www.plato-philosophy.org/teaching-high-school-philosophy/>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-shammas/for-a-better-society-teac_b_2356718.html

<https://www.buffalochestertonacademy.org/blog/4-reasons-philosophy-should-be-taught-in-high-school>

Philosophical discourse deals with all aspects of education and leadership, intra-personal, social, career and world views through enterprising methods. In addition we will directly tackle socio-economic issues, by allowing the young leaders to volunteer; together with an enthralling and enlightening coursework which is innovative yet rooted in tried and tested philosophical wisdom.

B. Program Outline

Comparative studies of leaders, cultures and philosophies throughout the ages, expands thinking skills by broadening learners perspective of their inner psychological worlds, morality and their roles in building society. We relate these studies to practical life skills from emotional Intelligence, problem solving, creativity, thinking skills, attitudes, virtues, art, ethics, morality and politics. Our methodology is designed to engage the youthful mind, to face and deal with common concerns that distract them from reaching personal goals and objectives.

Classes consist of a theoretical component, group discussions, practical exercise and reflective activity. This gives learners ample opportunity to interrogate and digest the information for real life application. We are focussed on education and mentorship for personal leadership enabling learners to take charge of their school life, future careers and benefit the community.

The volunteer element deals with basic project management skills. New Acropolis runs yearly volunteer events which learners must get involved in. In this manner, we cover theoretical and practical components of youth development through practical philosophy. The program will run on a yearly basis from grade 9-12, each year the curriculum will expand in philosophical depth.

The subject outline covered in 3 modules are:

Man	Man and Society	Philosophy of History
- Ethics and Morality	- Youth in the new millennium	- Cycles of time
- Voices of the personality	- Individual, society and organised community, universal ubuntu	- Connecting History and Mythology, our future...
- A warriors conflict	- Utopia, possible?	- Our future...
- My destiny?	- Morality in society	- Myths and Legends
- Happiness or suffering?	- Explore socio-political theories	
- Philosophy meets the cinema.	- Volunteer project management	

C. Budget

The cost per student per annum is R2,999 with 20-25 learners per group, with a minimum of 10 learners to open 1 group. The fees include:

1. Coursework: 18 Workshops throughout the year
2. A t-shirt per learner
3. Learning materials

4. Conclusion

Philosophy in essence is a combination of all the sciences from psychology and culture to thinking skills leading all the way to social cohesion. If the goal of education is to develop the whole of mankind - one must be given the opportunity to ponder these deep questions, grasp ancient wisdom and then slowly realise the responsibility one has to pursue one's potential, live in the world and contribute to its upliftment. Let's help one young heart as a time.

5. Contact Information

New Acropolis School of Philosophy – NGO: 2009/017719/08

Contact: +27 11 781 6822, info@newacropolis.org.za

Address: Orion House, 3rd Floor, 49 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein 2001, Gauteng, South Africa

www.newacropolis.org.za, www.acropolis.org

Founding Director: Guy Hazon 072 300 1274, guyh@acropolis.org

