

Writing a Comment – Beispieltext

Assignment:

More and more students claim that school does not sufficiently prepare them for adult life and its challenges. This leads to the question, if "Life Skills" (Alltagsfähigkeiten) should be implemented as a new subject in schools in order to amend this situation. Comment on the proposal's advantages and disadvantages.

Comment:

In school, students are taught how to write essays, solve maths problems, and identify certain chemicals. However, most school curricula do not include lessons on the technicalities of adult life, like making a tax declaration or managing one's income. Therefore, many students leave school feeling unprepared for their lives beyond school. But would the implementation of "Life Skills" as a new subject really help solve this issue?

On the one hand, adding a new subject to school curricula automatically means adding more hours to students' already long school days. Most students spend eight hours in school every day. This adds up to a 40-hour week for students on average. Adding another subject on top would increase this number to about 44 hours, which is more time than most parents spend at work.

Also, if the subject was added, students might feel better prepared for the technicalities of adult life, but would have hardly any free time to explore their personal interests outside of school. However, getting an idea of their ambitions, passions, and strengths in life in general is much more important than adding yet another subject to their school day.

On the other hand, a major advantage of "Life Skills" as a new subject is that all students benefit equally from the lessons it provides, since they are relevant regardless of students' specific interests or their educational level. For example, students with a biology major benefit as much from tips concerning job interviews or income management as students with a language major.

Most importantly, though, the lessons provided by the subject would build the necessary groundwork for most students to feel prepared for the "real life" outside of school. Learning on topics such as tax declaration, home and health insurance, job applications, and many more, would give students a sense of autonomy and independence. Schools mission already is to teach students autonomous thinking. Being able to act autonomously in real life should be an inherent part of this.

"Life Skills" would offer many benefits to students. It would help prepare them for the challenges that every young adult has to face, like managing income and insurance or writing a job application. Nevertheless, the implementation of the new subject also poses some difficulties. Another subject would increase the time students have to spend in school, which would in turn prevent them from meaningful activities outside of school. Yet, to avoid this, "Life Skills" could simply be added as a series of workshops. All in all, "Life Skills" should therefore be included as a new subject in High Schools.

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