**Why I Mentor – First Draft**

I am a convert. I hope that all mankind will someday convert to doing a liberal arts education. A liberal education originates from the education of a freeman, as opposed to slaves. Its purpose is intellectual ability, as opposed to technical or professional skill. The primary subjects include; literature, history, philosophy, and languages.

The common American phrase, “freedom is not free” packs a lot of truth. I think very few people would disagree with the statement; freedom takes a lot of work. In fact, I think most everyone would agree that the best things in life do not come free, they take work. This work that we have ahead of us, this liberal education, is one of the best ways that one can better themselves as a person and ensure their freedom.

*“There is no royal road to geometry.”*

 *-*Euclid

Just as much time and toil is necessary in a successful garden. It is a simple, but laborious, work that brings about great things. There are no royal roads to growing a fruitful garden. As with a garden that slowly unfolds and becomes something great, so does a liberal education natural grow into a fruitful person of success and greatness. It produces minds that challenge the axioms of what is societally acceptable. The value of education from public schools and even colleges is brought under the magnifying glass to be weighed and measured. The beaten path no longer remains the best path to follow, but the one less traveled that requires methodical consciousness and responsibility.

The liberal arts world is a very large and daunting one. Fortunately, not every book has to be read neither does everyone has to read all the same books. A tour guide is needed to aide our navigation through this massive sea. Providence ought to be the first and foremost life-long guide, or mentor as they are sometimes called. Whereas a liberal education unfortunately does not make man impervious to vice, God can and will. Throughout life many guiding mentors come and go, each contributing a new flare, a new taste, a new perspective. The mentors are essential in filtering out the unnecessary from the necessary to help find what is best right now. Having not been to certain places in the many fields of study, one cannot know what he does not know or what should be sought after. A mentor who has already been there and done points out the good stepping stones; although, a mentor can only take his pupil as far as he himself has gone.

Every human being will be a mentor; as a parent, a friend, or simply as someone somebody looks up to; God allows everyone the opportunity to share our gifts and talents with others because everyone has a unique addition.

I am a convert. I hope that all mankind will someday convert to doing a liberal arts education. This burning hope and desire urges onward, striving for a great liberal education so I might be a mentor and lift others with me to intellectual freedom so that they can in turn do the same.

*“Strive to be what you wish to be thought to be.”*

 *-Socrates*

Audience: Introducing those I am mentoring, and those I would like to mentor, to a liberal arts education.