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Awesome!**16 points*
Written Composition Score: 8
8 = Accomplished

Olivia's "Batman" essay

With the rise of Generation X and their immense amount of technological advancement, there comes a long discussed yet seemingly ignored lament – the lessening age at which children are losing their mental innocence. Pornography and other distasteful materials distributed on the Web serve as a reminder of the rapidly changing times. In light of these and other incidents, it is false to claim that learning of all kinds unfailingly results in benefits for the individual.

For example, learning something unfavorable about the world (i.e. the expulsion of naïveté) has an immense propensity for damaging the emotional health of the individual – possibly for life. The 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center, as well as the March 2014 crash of a Malaysia Airlines flight into the Indian Ocean, affected the lives of many. When relatives learned of the passing of loved ones it tore families asunder and tarnished what had once been a bright tomorrow for pregnant wives, children, and the spouses now without someone they cherished. Consider additionally the situation of Bruce Wayne, known most of his life as the reclusive Batman. As a child, Wayne's parents were shot before his eyes as by a mugger who wanted his mother's pearls. The tearful realization that his once thought infallible parents were dead, as well as the capability of a human being to perform acts of evil, drove young Bruce to seek out vengeance by warring on all of Gotham's criminals. This vendetta, pursued above all else, forced him to sacrifice love and intimacy, leading him to live an obsessive, unhealthy life.

In addition, learning about the world could possibly lead to the abandonment of an individual by society. For example, in cultures where mainstream feminism and women's rights movements have not yet reformed role definitions as such as in Saudi Arabia, a woman's passion for academics and a desire to pursue collegiate degrees would likely be met with branding, name calling abuse, parental ostracizing and naysaying. Another example would be a person for color who did not behave like their peers – they could be accused of "acting like [insert group]" and shunned because of their learning etiquette not to common to others they know.

Even though learning does have many benefits, the downsides, especially emotional ones, can be many in number. For some, it could be argued that they even outweigh the benefits of getting an education – an occasionally true and thus lamentable fact.

Olivia graduated as Trimble Tech's 2017 Valedictorian