

PRESIDENT OBAMA ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION BY SHAREAMERICA. TRANSCRIPT

Through education you can also better yourselves in other ways, you learn how to learn, how to think critically and find solutions to unexpected challenges. I remember we used to ask our teachers, why am I going to need algebra? Well, you may not have to solve for x to get a good job or to be a good parent, but you will need to think through tough problems, you will need to think on your feet, you will need to know how to gather facts and evaluate information. So Math teachers, you can tell your students that the President says they need algebra.

Education also teaches you the value of discipline, that the greatest rewards come not from instant gratification, but from sustained effort and from hard work. This is a long lesson that is especially true today in a culture that prizes flash over substance, that tells us that the goal in life is to be entertained, that says you can be famous just for being famous. I mean, you get on a reality show, you do not know what you have done, suddenly you are famous, but that is not going to lead to lasting sustained achievement.

And finally, with the right education both at home and at school, you can learn how to be a better human being, for when you read a great story or you learn about an important moment in history, it helps you imagine what it would be like to walk in somebody else's shoes, to know their struggles. The success of our economy will depend on your skills, but the success of our community will depend on your ability to follow the Golden Rule, to treat others as you would like to be treated.