

Why Young Authors’ is a Thing of the Past

Way back when, Young Authors’ was a good idea; it encouraged children to become better writers and better at literacy. Today, however, that has changed. Kids are more accustomed to computers and electronics, and the need to know how to write a narrative story is lessening, as kids are discovering dreams that don’t require the need to write a narrative, but a guided essay, which includes information finding skills and has a set guideline. I believe that Young Authors’ should be an optional activity, in that if a student feels it will improve their writing ability for a future career or job, they would be able to participate if they chose. However, if a student did not feel that participating in the Young Authors’ would better themselves for a future career or job, and that it would be a waste of time and energy for them, they could choose to not participate in the Young Authors’, and nothing will be counted against them. I believe this because the decreasing need for narrative story writing for today’s jobs, the sheer waste of time for a student if they do not need to better themselves, and the area of jobs that today’s students are looking into. I believe that participating in Young Authors’ should be a choice made by the student, and not a requirement.

First and foremost, the need to be able to write a narrative story is decreasing in today’s workforce. Sure, some would like to become authors or writers, but most writing that people do today is not narrative writing, but more informational or persuasive writing. Most pieces you see that gain national popularity are news stories, not books or short stories like the pieces written in Young Authors’. If you wanted to earn as much money as professional news writers by writing narratives, you would have to crank out about a story or two a day. Keep in mind that the stories, if you want to keep your money the same as a newswriter, have to be original. However, newswriters always have something to go by to write the news story, whether it be experiencing the event and seeing it yourself or doing some research to make one big headline. This can increase the amount of headlines they produce in a day. According to sokanu.com, the median salary of a journalist in New York is $47,770. That’s not bad compared to a story author, which can depend on how many books you have written and how well your books sell. If you don’t want to become a writer in either field, but want to go to college, you must know how to write an essay, and a good one at that. Not much of a need for writing a story if you want to become a doctor or an astronaut!

Secondly, it would be a waste of time for a student if the Young Authors’ was required and the student felt that participating would not better them for a future job or career. If a student wanted to pursue a field that includes STEM or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), such as an engineer or a biologist, you wouldn’t need the skill of being able to write a fictional narrative to perform the job. However, you would need to know how to understand complex visuals, such as graphs or three dimensional figures, or how to solve complex math, such as trigonometry or calculus. If a student felt that they would not be improved if they did the Young Authors’, they could research and learn a new skill that could help them improve, that way the time while others are doing Young Authors’ is not wasted, but utilized. "The future of the economy is in STEM,” says James Brown, the executive director of the STEM Education Coalition in Washington, D.C. With the utilization of the spare Young Authors’ time, kids who are aspiring to become involved in STEM-related careers can advance towards the career they want by researching and learning in this spare time. A seemingly good use of time can be turned into a truly beneficial time, all by changing what the students are doing in the time. Although some may say that Young Authors’ would help give students some time to let loose on writing, this is a required writing piece that is due for a grade, and can be placed into competition with other pieces. Wouldn’t that be stressful to be pretty much forced to let loose on writing, instead of just turn in at a really far off date?

Finally, the areas of jobs that schools are promoting and students are looking into would not require or need the ability to write a narrative, while still providing a sufficient amount of money. Take a look at someone like Donald Trump. He likely doesn’t write narrative stories, like an adventure across a wild, magical land, but more informational and persuasive pieces, like this one. He’s a billionaire entrepreneur and President of the United States of America, and he doesn’t write narratives like the ones in Young Authors’, that is required to do throughout schools and deemed very important by some school districts. Another example would be Bill Gates, creator of Microsoft and deemed the “richest man alive” and “set to become a trillionaire.” Sure he may read a lot of books, but most of the time, he is likely writing business reports and informational pieces, not narratives. Even with this, he still is the “richest man alive.” Schools are promoting STEM with the new STEM challenges, and a new science test that could be added to standardized testing, leading students to going into STEM-based careers, which don’t always require narrative writing. If you wanted to become the “richest person alive” or have a STEM-based career, would you have to write narratives on the daily? Although some may say that you can make lots of money by being an author, which you can, it would be a slow process. You would have to write on the daily if you would want to accumulate some amount of money, not mentioning taxes and other basic human needs. Also, people would be wanting you to come to a school, or go to a meet-and-greet with fans, which can cost lots of money for travel, hotels, and other travel expenses. What it all boils down to is a lot of money going towards your career and not you, so you earn about as much as your average higher-paying job.

As proven with adequate information, Young Authors’ is a thing of the past, and I believe that Young Authors’ should be an optional activity, in that if a student feels it will improve their writing ability for a future career or job, they would be able to participate if they chose, and if a student did not feel that participating in the Young Authors’ would better themselves for a future career or job, and that it would be a waste of time and energy for them, they could choose to not participate in the Young Authors’, and nothing would be counted against them. I believe this because of the decreasing need for writing a narrative piece in today’s workforce, with informational writers making more money than your average author, the waste of time that a student would have if participating in Young Authors’ would not better them, which could be fixed by having a research time instead of Young Authors’, and the STEM-based jobs and careers that students are looking into today, and their lack of requirement for knowing how to write a narrative piece. Thank you for your time.