

Provided by Rob Goodman - 4-30-14

Several of your choices above get at the point (critical thinking skills, adaptability, problem solver & lifelong learner) but I might phrase it a bit differently. Whether you work in "blue collar" or high tech or as a professional, over your working career, there will be many changes in all aspects of the issues confronting your performance. Furthermore you may want to change careers (more than once). The key benefit of a great education is to provide you with **the ability and willingness to continue to learn.**

Another quality benefit of a good education is a degree of awareness and appreciation of literature and the visual and performing arts.

I am replying as a member of Virginia Beach Vision trying looking at the issues from the perspective as to what is best for our region.

In that regard I see three major pools of students (and I recognize that students may shift from one pool to another): first, those for whom school will provide the basic skill sets and learning ability to enter the work force or military without attending college; second, those who will attend college but not necessarily with a view toward completion of at least advanced study and third, a smaller group of exceptional students who will likely attend college, graduate school and in any event become true intellectual leaders in their chosen fields.

Your questions cover all three groups, but my answers would vary depending on which group I am trying to plan for. Your follow-up planning and evaluation of effectiveness might want to take these differences into account.