Christina Farrier

Unit 3 – ED 800

As I was reading the introduction to “A Passion for Learning”, I realized you don’t have to have a formal education in order to be educated. The subjects raised many years ago had informal educations but still became educated citizens. As I went through the subjects in the book, the subjects increasingly had more formal educations and the way the subjects learned changed from the beginning of the book to the end.

In this unit, I focused my studies on W.E.B. DuBois. According to Cusick, DuBois’s education was built around early literacy, early attachment to serious ideas, early awareness of the power of expression, and personal involvement with major currents of the time. DuBois also worked hard to deal with the racial oppositions at the time after World War II. Working with Civil Rights laws, DuBois had to reflect, reeducate, and re-create himself.

While reviewing the DuBois Central website, there were all positive statements regarding his education. There was a movie, a timeline, a chronology, and a concise biography. The website showed that DuBois received a formal education with a lot of support at school. According to the video, DuBois was the greatest African American philosopher ever and he never received all the rights he fought for but he worked hard for all African Americans. While reading the biography, it went through his education he received in full detail. There were many details and very specific information in the biography. DuBois excelled at school and outshone his white peers. In high school, he worked for New York newspapers and became something of a prodigy in the eyes of the community. Influential people recognized his promise and quietly decided his future for him – it was arranged for him to attend Fisk University, where he saw the suffering of many blacks.

The biography also went into depth about events that occurred outside of his education. DuBois fought for many progressive causes but World War II quickly consumed these causes. He became more of an international figure throughout his years. He went into scientific studies of race relations and founded the Niagara Movement. DuBois wanted to point out that all people should have the same rights and there shouldn’t be segregation and lynching.

DuBois had many people who saw something positive in him that they thought would benefit the future African American generations. Throughout his education, he had many people helping him in his education, both by educating him and helping monetarily by helping to receive scholarships to help pay for college. The Dubois Central website also helped me understand that he worked hard to help with Civil Rights and had a good basis of knowledge in order to support his ideas and visions.

While looking at W.E.B. DuBois: The Activist Life website, there are many pictures to look at while looking through his biographical account. These pictures show that he had a formal education and that education was important to him. The pictures gave me a visual to see what the students looked like in his classes and he also looked serious in the pictures. He was shown with good posture, a serious facial expression without smiling, and dressed nicely.

There was a short biography on the side of the pictures and it stated that he was ecstatic when his principal found a scholarship for him to attend Fisk University. He also continued his studies at Harvard and the University of Berlin. This education allowed DuBois to be educated in the world and also to see the way others were treated in various parts of the United States. He also had enough knowledge to help fight for Civil Rights for African Americans and to help teach others the way they should be treated by human beings.

The one “pillar” according to “Passion for Learning” that I think of while reading about DuBois and looking at online resources is: receiving a formal instruction by receiving early immersion in language, ideas, and worlds beyond his own. DuBois excelled in school and worked hard from elementary, high school, to receiving his PH.D at Harvard. He also became a teacher so he could also give a good formal education to the future generations. Children will learn more from what you are than what you teach and DuBois had a very strong personality and shared his thoughts with others. DuBois realized that education was designed for his benefit and that he would gain in the future from his education. The harder he worked in school, the more knowledge he would gain. DuBois shows that education depends on being open to learning, open to participating fully, and open to creating the person one becomes.