

☆APUパネルトーク

中学3年修学旅行で訪問しました立命館アジア太平洋大学(APU)にて、洗足生代表による「自分が社会に貢献できること」をテーマとしたパネルトークが行われました。代表で発表した生徒に対して、APUの留学生からコメントが届きましたので生徒の発表原稿とともにご紹介します。

A. K

Anyone who is working, and is helping others through that work is contributing to society. However, **we teenagers don't have the ability to work yet. So what can we do right now to contribute to society?**

One way is to go after something which you are interested in or have passion towards. Whether it be dance, music, animals or sports it's something that gives joy to us. We should work hard at it and share with others what we've accomplished. We may be able to inspire someone else to go after their dreams or simply put a smile on their face for a second. Some might argue that this isn't a form of contributing to society but if many people aspire to be good at something, it sets a positive attitude which can change something as big as the economy or the atmosphere of society.

Another way is to really value education and study hard. This is something I personally need to work on. There's not much we can do right now compared to what we can do once we become adults, so instead we can prepare to become an adult with more influence on society. We need to know the world if we want to have an impact on it. Education can lead us to the development of new technology, stop us from repeating past mistakes, give us a sense of who we are, better ensure us of rights such as gender equality, lead us to the creation of new masterpieces, help us form better judgments and the list goes on and on.

One might suggest volunteer work as a way for us to immediately contribute to society and it is. However, **the volunteer work we are capable of doing right now is very small compared to what we could do once we become adults.** Rather than focusing on what is accomplished during the time spent for volunteering, **we should cherish what was learned and felt during the experience.** The lessons learned while volunteering is something that can't be attained just through school and so are the things that are learned from any academic competition or responsibility. We need to seize chances that are offered to us and keep our eyes open for more.

Understanding ourselves and developing our own ideas and thoughts is also important when preparing ourselves to become adults that have influence on society. This step is crucial to become an adult who is not gullible and does not succumb to those with ill intentions. In order for there to be a society where people striving to be good win in life, the general population needs to be strong minded.

Comments from S (APU student)

To be honest I really liked your speech. It was quite impressive and pretty clear. Especially I really liked when you said, "Anyone who is working, and is helping others through that work is contributing to society". I agree with you for sure because, in this life, everything is linked with each other, as well as human beings are also linked with each other by invisible tights which make them work together in cooperation.



I have one question for you. Have you decided who you want to be in future? If yes, have you already started doing your steps? If yes, please specify one by one.

I can say that you are very talented. You just need to focus on what you want and believe what you want. I am sure you can do it.



M. M

What I can contribute to the society is to try many things and gain various experiments. Such experience will teach us what is important. And it helps us to find what I want to do and to have a dream.

I am just fifteen years old, and don't have the right to vote or any properties. I can't live without relying on adults including my parents. But in the future, I will become an adult and live myself without my parents. That is, I will have to do all by myself. It's very difficult to live comfortably when I don't find what I have to do or want to do. In addition, there will be enough time to contribute to others. Therefore, **I think I shall start to think about my future after I gain experiences.**

There are many chances to get various experiences. Go to school, take a lesson, talk

with friends, join a club after school, and so on. I should not say, “Such a subject is NOT useful,” or “This is just a vain activity,” because I shall try to perform a challenge. Of course it could be lucky if I became successful. But, if I failed, I would understand that I couldn’t manage it.

In this way, I will know myself deeply and understand what to do clearly. Finally, it will make me contribute to our society.

[Questions]

1. Could you tell us about “many things” and “various experiences” specifically ?

2. What do you want to do? What is your dream?

3. Can’t you think about your future before you gain experiences?

→Of course I can. But experiences bring me more information and new ideas, so I think I can think of my future better after I gain experiences.

4. So, you mean that to know ourselves deeply leads to perception to contribution?



Comments from S
(APU student)

I really liked your speech. I could recognize that you have a very strong passion. What you have mentioned caught my attention, “I should not say, such a subject is NOT useful, or this is just a vein activity.” That’s right, I agree with you. No matter what you study at school will not be a waste. One day you will understand the value of that gained knowledge from that class even it was boring or something.

My advice is, no matter how many subjects you study, please make sure that you have one clear direction and try to be an expert at least in one area. And then you can easily contribute to the society with your deep knowledge through the decided area.

Have you ever tried to do something for society until this day? I am sure you definitely have done. Please try to find them and analyze them one by one.



N. I

First we have to do is to know the state of the world and the problem. Without knowledge, we can’t get into action for the future and cannot think in our mind.

In that time, **we mustn’t be perplex to the internet or television and make sure with our own eyes.** Also, **thinking of the purpose, what to do in the future, and how to contribute in the future are important for us.**

We can get a lot of hints from social studies, science and more classes at the junior high school and the college.

When we get older and become more able to take action, we have to wonder if it is really for the people at the place. Not only articles but also joint it really need. For example, we have to consider whether the technology really saves the world or not.

At our age, it is difficult to do something independently. So **people who studied hard have many differences from people who didn’t gain knowledge. To throw many doubts till they understand is the best way for the general public to agree.**

Comments from T
(APU student)

I liked your idea how you linked between knowledge and the world problem. Knowledge is so important to solve many of the world’s problems. I can give you an example. Like Ebola is spreading in some African countries and people are thinking about all African countries. So, if we do not have the knowledge about Ebola, it will be really hard to solve this problem.

Personally, I think that we should study to gain knowledge not for the good grades. In the end, it is knowledge that will help you not to get the good grades.

My question for you is, “Can you give me some examples how you can gain knowledge from your personal experience and how you can use that knowledge in your future life?”



A. M

This summer, a lot of people tried Ice Bucket Challenge. They sent the action through variety of social network service to people all over the world. For example, You Tube and Instagram. Therefore, **I think about a new contribution to the world. It is volunteering work that uses social network service. I believe this for the following two reasons, to do volunteering for variety of people and to get a lot of supplies.** I will introduce the reasons in detail.

Do you know an English girl that wrote about school meal in the blog? In the school, staff members gave low-quality school meals. She wanted to tell someone the problem. She came up with a good idea. It is starting the blog. So, she began to write blogs about the bad school meals. Then, many students all over the world that read her blog gave information to the school, and they changed the bad meals into good ones. However, there are many children that suffer from hunger in the world. She made a donation to the hungry children. Then, a lot of people gave many donations, and gathered a lot of money. She sent food to such countries that have many starving children.

People say that young people cannot take a big action, but we can do it by using social network service. Also a lot of people see the Internet, and we can gather money. In conclusion, we should use the Internet for volunteer work positively. We may make big contribution to the world.

*Comments from T
(APU student)*

I liked the fact that you think social media can play a vital role in the volunteering work. Social media is a really strong tool and we should use it in the right way. I think you know a blogger from Egypt used facebook to protest against her government. But, I want to say that not everything you read on the Internet is true. Internet and social media can be used negatively and can manipulate the information. So, we should be conscious about how we use the Internet.

My question to you is, “Do you have any particular plan that to use the social media to contribute to the society? Or how can you do volunteer work through the social media?”



F. A

There is a limit about what we can do because we are just junior high school students. But **I think that looking for what we can do and taking the challenge is the most important.**

If someone does as many volunteer activities as possible, it is not necessarily good because **to understand the purpose of volunteer activities is important**, and to do them without consideration is not.

In order to do so, we should gain many chances. For example, when we study social studies, just to memorize for tests or just to spend a lot of time for studying is not good. **We have to wonder why we study as a subject.** Many of us are not interested in incidents that happened around the world now, but if we change our current idea for studying, we will see why we should study a lot.

When we become adults, we will be able to have unlimited possibility to contribute toward the world. We have to prepare for it.

*Comments from S
(APU student)*

I really enjoyed listening to your ideas through this short essay. Especially I liked your idea when you mentioned, “Many of us are not interested in incidents that happened around the world now, but if we change our current idea for studying, we will see why we should study a lot”. Please study hard and always do your best. Do not do anything for just to be done, try to make it perfect and try to put a lot of efforts on every single task, since big things start with small things.

I am just wondering, “Have you already started doing a preparation for your future? If yes, please make a clear plan for it. And keep up striving hard.”