Education and freedom are two widely discussed topics. They are sometimes held hand in hand, and other times they are left separate. But when they are held together, what is their connection? Is one better than the other? How do schools and colleges handle them? What happens when teachers and professors attempt to change students?

My personal take on this is that freedom is more important than education, yet they still belong together. You should have the freedom to take whichever courses you want. You should only have to take courses pertaining to your major without having to focus on other unrelated subjects. What good will complex fractions do in the field of archaeology, for instance?

“’But it’s a nice thing, surely, to be familiar with a lot of subjects.’ Well, in that case let us retain just as much of them as we need. Would you consider a person open to criticism for putting superfluous objects on the same level as really useful ones by arranging on display in his house a whole array of costly articles, nut not for cluttering himself up with a lot of superfluous furniture in the way of learning? To want to know more than is sufficient is a form of intemperance.” This is exactly what I mean. I would rather have an extensive knowledge on the core things of which I must learn, rather than be a jack of all trades and a master of none. Having extra courses simply clutters up my mind with useless knowledge that I do not feel like learning.

As a student majoring in Information Technology, I find it frustrating to have to take multiple classes at once that have little to do with it. My other classes include public speech, advanced algebra, and written English. I do not feel at all as if I need these classes, yet they are required by the state to take. I fail to see how writing essays, speaking in front of people, and simplifying irregular square roots is going to help me with game programming. This is exactly what makes me want education and freedom to belong together.

Once students graduate from college and start their new lives and work at their new jobs, they have a lot to think about. While they are doing their jobs, their minds are cluttered with all sorts of information, both useful and impractical. Eventually, they will stumble upon an intense, pressured situation. Maybe it’s a hard task, or a deadline that is not very far away. Some people will succeed, and others will fail. What goes on in their mind during their hard situation? Sure, there is the required information for their job, but there is also the useless information that they were required by the law to take during college. Their minds were sadly cluttered with such useless information. Seneca describes this perfectly as having a large house filled to the brim with furniture. Most of it is fancy and nice looking, but only a small amount is actually practical. Of course, that means that you have to search your house for a good chair rather than just sitting on the first one you see.