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10am class

Philosophy Importance

By definition, philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline. However, this does not do justice to the underlying meaning and importance of philosophy. Socrates and Plato were two very essential people that did in fact understand and portray the true value of philosophy. Their contributions and ideas are still relevant today and even dictate some of the essential features of our current world.

The thinking that philosophy involves, incorporates into just about every subject there is. People who decide to involve themselves with philosophy develop critical thinking skills that can be a great benefit for when coming up with new ideas such as for a company, creating a new technological advance, or even just solving an everyday problem. Edward Tenner, an *Atlantic* contributor, states that philosophy is in fact the most practical major.

Dr. Damon Horowitz originally had a technology job, but soon yearned to associate himself with philosophy. Dr. Damon earned his PhD in philosophy at Stanford and soon after became a tech entrepreneur and Google’s in-house philosopher/director of engineering. He is a perfect example of why philosophy needs to stop being overlooked so often.

Another individual that caught my eye was a man known as Robert Brandom. He is a professor of philosophy at the University of Pittsburg. He specializes in the areas of language, mind, and logic. What I found interesting about him was the fact that he focuses on the socially normative use of language and the meaning of linguistic items. This is an important philosophical idea because it correlates directly to our lives today. A growing habit that is not necessarily a positive one is using slang terms. Whether it is to shorten up a couple words into one, or creating a whole new term, these shortenings are becoming increasingly popular. Dr. Brandom has made significant efforts to discover the meaning behind such linguistic expressions and how it relates to our social norm use of language.

Philosophy is in our everyday lives, so we should stop taking it for granted and acting like it is no longer of importance. It has underappreciated value that typically only philosophers are willing to try and preserve because they know the true meaning of it. Philosophers should be appreciated for the kind of thinking they accomplish and how it can influence the real world.