

What about some gratitude?

Speech

If you look around when you stand outside your house or if you are in the city, you see people. You see different kinds of people, tall and small, dark and white. If you look closely, you can see that every person has a role in the society they live in. They choose their role by choosing to spend their lives doing what they love and what they think may make a difference to the world. Our family and loved ones have been there. They have been exactly in the position you are in or are about to enter, and they made the choices you soon have to make. They followed their hearts and chose what they may have the passion to do for a lifetime.

Life is all about making choices and to make the right choices. We, who live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, have more options than people who live in other countries such as Haiti or on other continents as for example Africa. We receive free education because the government pays for us and gives the teachers salaries. The Norwegian school system has several programs we can choose from to find the perfect match for us. We can achieve our dream or dream-job almost for free.

Think about the children in Haiti. Probably all the schools have collapsed because of the earthquake that struck this February, less than a month ago. The problem is that Haiti has no money to rebuild its country and if they ever are donated money to rebuild their country, the schools will certainly not be first priority. The Government of Haiti would first focus on safety, roads, hospitals and access to food.

Then think about the children in Africa. Africa is a very poor continent. That shows by the way the houses are built, by the clothes they wear and the looks of the people who live there. There are many more children in fewer schools, than in the West. The conditions are poorer and there is a lack of educated teachers. African children do not have the same options when it comes to schooling. They are very lucky if they are allowed to go to school at all.

So, if you compare the opportunities children in Haiti and Africa enjoy to the opportunities kids have in Norway, you can see some striking differences. Because most of the Norwegian people have been educated and paid tax and duty, we are blessed with a unique school system. The Norwegian youths get an exceptional chance to become exactly what they want if they just make an effort. So, what about a little gratitude? Think through what you want and do your best. The easy way out of things is not always the best choice. You are only fooling yourself by skipping classes or homework. What do you think the children in Africa would do if they got a chance to show someone what they can do? Do you think they would skip school? I am certain that they would do their best because that could be a “once in a lifetime opportunity” for them. People in countries with money can educate themselves to become doctors, lawyers, journalists, bankers and so on. Do the youths in Haiti and Africa have the same opportunity? How would they feel if they knew that some youngsters think they are too cool for school and waste their chance to get free education? People deserve to get their dreams fulfilled. But are we too lazy? We need to pull ourselves together and ask ourselves: What do i want? There are plenty of other children around the world who would love to take our place. So... think it through and show some gratitude.