

Two Million Minutes

An Exercise in Analyzing Arguments and Thinking About YOUR Education

Going back to the 1950's, the media and the public have bewailed the state of public education and wondered "why Johnny can't read." This documentary is of that theme and has stimulated politicians to push for reform. Fill out this worksheet and turn it in to Mrs. Biddle no later than **Thursday, March 13.**

- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.

He says most American students spend most of their 2 million minutes doing sports, working, social activities that do not relate to their education. Indians and Chinese are studying and learning every minute.

- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?

He says that Indians and Chinese are taking over because their students are more advanced than American students. However, they are not necessarily well rounded.

- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?

The evidence he provided was not balanced. He interviewed students studying to be a graphic designer and a doctor against engineers. These require different types of knowledge.

- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film? He says students in India and China are privileged and they are spending lots of money on their education. Therefore, they're more likely to take their education more seriously. Also, American students are more well rounded.

- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument? He says more than 70 percent of their population suffers from poverty. Also, he says that some people beat others not because of their capacities in knowledge but because of their energy, goals, charisma, and creativity.

- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film? He asks where people we can get resources to improve our educational system and whether teachers and faculty ~~all~~ all around the country will comply.

- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would an IB program answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think about the state of American education? On what are you basing your opinion?

I think the IB program challenges it's students to excel. It provides them with knowledge in all areas. It also gives time for sports, ^{and various} extracurricular activities.

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.

He argues that students in American schools don't study ~~as much~~ as much because they're not pushed as hard.

- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?

He had statistical evidence of how competitive it was to get into college in Asia ~~and then~~ compared to how competitive it is to get into college in the US.

- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?

Evidence could have been, maybe how their family lives influence their study habits and the different family dynamics ~~in~~ in the US + Asia.

- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film?

Matthews says that you can't make ~~of~~ broad conclusions about people.

What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?

Americans were accepted into the school he wanted to go to and the Asians weren't.

What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?

~~Why are people not~~

Why all ~~the~~ students weren't ~~educated~~ equally educated.

What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would an IB program answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think about the state of American education? On what are you basing your opinion?

I think that I am receiving the best education that can be offered to me at this time ~~as~~ compared to other students my age. ~~I don't think so~~ However, it could be improved + students could be more successful if they had more freedom with choosing their academic schedules according to what they want to major in college. I don't think that the IB program is the answer to Compton's question.

basic
I think that American education is definitely not the best. There is a wide range of the levels of education across the country. ~~It is not~~ See my friends getting that based on the education in the city or country. go to other schools around the city or country.

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.
He thinks that Americans are falling behind the rest of the world because Americans spend more time on partying than the Indians and Chinese.
- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?
It is very biased because he is trying to push an initiative to change the American school system. It is not very convincing because he says that even if the Indians and Chinese don't get into their schools, Americans will always get into ours.
- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?
He could have provided from which countries do students come from in Ivy League schools like Harvard.
- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film? He says that because America is the only remaining superpower, we shouldn't be worried about the threats that India and China pose.
- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?
He shows that America is 23rd in standardized test scores, even though America is the only superpower left after the cold war.
- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?
He raises the question "what does America need to do in order to succeed?" but that question is not definitively answered by the movie.
- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would an IB program answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think about the state of American education? On what are you basing your opinion?

I think I am getting a very good education compared to my peers, because our classes are more discussion based than a non-IB classes. I think the IB world view teaches us more than regular classes, so I would like to see more related ideas be implemented in American education. I think that our public education system needs a lot of work.

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.
we are complacent without education, but India and China are still trying to progress
- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?
subjective, numbers of graduates vs level of ability
- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?
a comparison between abilities of engineer graduates in US, India, and China; No, ~~the~~ statistics are lopsided, no pro-US facts are given
- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film? he does not believe they are a threat to the US economy
- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?
Most money in world market goes through the US, so other countries don't have the power to try and cut us out
- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?
what is the difference in quality?
- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would IB answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think?
I think, or at least hope, that the IB program is as competitive to the harder programs in other countries, but if IB is the equivalent to the standard in countries like India and China, we are in deep trouble

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.
He feels that American students are generally unmotivated. According to Compton, there is too much emphasis on athletics and creative arts. Our school system is not accelerated.
- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?
The information he provided was inconsistent; it was biased and did not compare the same things (the top in those countries vs. good not great/creative arts)
- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?
He should have provided statistics that reflect the nation as a whole, and compared more similar students from each country. The evidence is thus imbalanced.
- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film?
He doesn't think that the idea that there is an economic threat is legitimate.
- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?
The world's cash flow goes through the US in a major way. There's not enough international power to exclude us.
- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?
He questions the the countries as wholes, and questions the difference in quality.
- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would IB answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think?
I think my education is relatively adequate. The average education in the US shouldn't be, but is better than most countries our size. If IB is considered as rigorous in other countries, that would help settle the dispute.



Answer

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.

Chinese and Indian education is progressive and on a higher standard

- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?

It lists anti-US statistics about education and says the ability vs. the graduate

- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?

Post-school access comparison

The evidence is all anti-american.

A population comparison makes it uneven

- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film? The education standard eventually won't hurt

the economy

- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?

Money goes through America so much that it can't be cut out of the world market

- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?

What differences are there in the quality of education

- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would IB answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think? No, ~~the~~ the standard education is lower here.

Even in IB, for some reason we structure our education system differently in Europe. Some courses here are

too hard for students to take eventually, in

the next 50 years, America will lose out to India & China

in education AND economy

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.
Compton thought that American school students are a lot less ambitious and driven because the school system is not challenging enough.
- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?
He compared students and their study styles with interview. It is very convincing.
- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?
He could have given scores of tests in the different schools. The evidence is very balanced.
- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film?
He thinks that the Chinese and Indian threat to the American economy is a myth.
- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?
He gives the thoughts of economists.
- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?
Popularity of certain professions in different countries.
Extra curriculars are important.
- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would IB answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think?
I think that the education I am receiving is very valuable. IB is international so many of the subjects, teaching methods etc. are similar.

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.

Indian and Chinese students focus entirely on their studies so that they can get into college, while U.S. students do too many extracurriculars

- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?

He showed two students from each of the three countries. I don't find his evidence convincing because the schools were not comparable and therefore

- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided very biased balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?

He could have shown students that were all from similar schools (like all IB or the middle 50% of the country) when providing statistics that to Compton's point.

- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film?

Many commentators blamed US schools for losing jobs to the Japanese country. Entrepreneurs like Compton will keep the US afloat.

- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?

1. US companies prospered in the 1950's to school when Japanese companies floundered.
2. Americans have a yearning to improve.
3. only 30% can afford to go to school.

- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?

Will Compton's film raise American teenagers' ability to compete in a global economy?

- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would an IB program answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think about the state of American education? On what are you basing your opinion?

I think that a flaw in the U.S. education system is that it offers a very broad education instead of a major like European systems. The IB program is also very broad and does not answer this. →

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1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.

Compton believed that American schools don't do as good a job of motivating its students to focus on academics while in school (instead of sports and socialization) when compared to the schools in India and China

2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?

he went about proving his evidence by providing a documentary and interviewing six teenagers and comparing their lives, study habits, and families. yes, in a way it was convincing to me but at the same time I felt like his conclusions didn't involve and relate and include ALL the teenagers in the specific

3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided Country (i.e. balanced)? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?

I feel that he should have presented his evidence in 2 different ways rather than just one, but I don't know specifically how he could've gone about doing it. no the evidence isn't balanced, he didn't interview "lazy" Asian teenagers or "productive" American ones.

Just because 2 Indian students that were on the documentary are studious doesn't necessarily mean that ALL of them have these good habits)

4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film?

Jay Matthews feels that Compton's argument (and film) are valid and although he criticized Compton, he still strongly agrees and understands where he's coming from.

5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?

the evidence that he provides in support of that argument was his own personal opinion, the opinions of others and statistics in the research he found.

6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?

although I don't recall the question that he raised that was unanswered in the film specifically, I feel that the question might have something to do with

7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would an IB program answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think about the state of American education? On what are you basing your opinion?

I feel like the current education that I am receiving is definitely helping me and preparing me for my future (since I'm in IB) but from four years old to minute trade in private school didn't prepare me as well as I had hope. when I talk to my best friend who is above college prep but is lower than IB and is taking AP course classes, I realize that although we are often studying and being taught the same topics, IB goes more into depth and applies it to every possible field that subject can be applied therefore I do feel that the IB program is preparing me for my future. I would only be in Compton's documentary if American teenagers were being drawn in a semi-positive rather than a completely negative light. I'm basing my opinion on my own personal experiences.

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- 1) Summarize Compton's argument for what is wrong with American schools when compared to schools in India and China.
 He suggested that because American students don't study for as many hours as the Chinese and Indian students and instead ~~to~~ participate in more social activities, they don't receive as rigorous an education.
- 2) What was the nature of the evidence he provided? Is it convincing?
 He presented two stereotypical high school seniors from America, China, and India.
 It's not very reliable evidence, but since the majority of the population lives, for the most part, the same way, it is convincing.
- 3) Is there other evidence he could have provided? Is the evidence provided balanced? If so or not, what questions are still apparent to you?
 He didn't extensively study or show high schools from other parts of the nation. It is possible that the education could influence these people differently.
- 4) What criticisms does Jay Matthews have of Compton's argument and film? Economists have convinced him that the more prosperous they are, then the more prosperous we are because they will have more money to buy our stuff.
- 5) What sort of evidence does he provide in support of that argument?
 We should try to improve high schools because we don't want a bunch of low-income students not getting the education they deserve.
- 6) What questions does he raise that are unanswered in the film?
 How in India a parent shows love for their child by getting them a student, but in America having to get a tutor for your child means he or she has a problem.
- 7) What is your assessment of the education you are receiving, the preparation you are getting – as well as or in comparison to that of your peers? Would IB answer some of Compton's questions? What do YOU think? I think the IB program's major advantage is that it's a much more well-rounded program but still has the rigor to complete in a globally-influenced work environment.