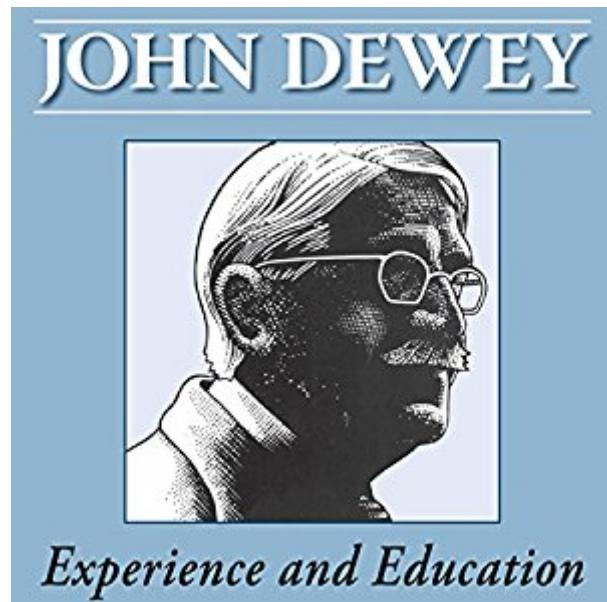


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# Experience And Education



## **Synopsis**

Experience and Education is the best concise statement on education ever published by John Dewey, the man acknowledged to be the pre-eminent educational theorist of the twentieth century. Written more than two decades after Democracy and Education (Dewey's most comprehensive statement of his position in educational philosophy), this book demonstrates how Dewey reformulated his ideas as a result of his intervening experience with the progressive schools and in the light of the criticisms his theories had received. Analyzing both "traditional" and "progressive" education, Dr. Dewey here insists that neither the old nor the new education is adequate and that each is miseducative because neither of them applies the principles of a carefully developed philosophy of experience. Many pages of this volume illustrate Dr. Dewey's ideas for a philosophy of experience and its relation to education. He particularly urges that all teachers and educators looking for a new movement in education should think in terms of the deeper and larger issues of education rather than in terms of some divisive "ism" about education, even such an "ism" as "progressivism." His philosophy, here expressed in its most essential, most readable form, predicates an American educational system that respects all sources of experience, on that offers a true learning situation that is both historical and social, both orderly and dynamic.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Although Experience and Education is small in form and a mere 91 pages in length, it is packed with highly useful information not only for professional educators but also for parents and caregivers of

children. It is bittersweet that Dewey's work remains relevant many decades after it was first published. Sadly, too little has been done to improve the quality of education in this country. Writers and educators such as Dewey have given us the tools needed to provide high quality education to the youth of our nation. Unfortunately, there appears to be little resolve to implement them on a wide scale. One of the very few positive aspects of this situation is that Dewey is still read and much is still learned from this great figure in American education. Dewey's recipe for a successful education is clear and can even be inferred from the title of this book in which experience is placed before education. Education is a product of experience. According to Dewey, not just any experience will do. Experience must be related to prior experience and expand upon it so as to stretch the current limits of knowledge. In order for experience to facilitate further growth in education, the educator must be a keen observer of their students, being able to monitor their current abilities. Rather than simply forcing knowledge onto students, Dewey believes that teachers should act more as group leaders. For Dewey, learning should be driven by the desires of the student with the teacher offering guidance, feedback, and structure to the activities. Dewey's approach is one that can also be used to great effect by parents when planning activities for their children. A little extra preparation time when going to a zoo or museum can turn into a richer, more memorable experience. There is little doubt that Dewey would be disappointed by the current state of American education. As a result of education slipping as a national priority, the quality of education has been in decline for decades. In addition, as funding has declined and the population has risen, class size has increased. This alone makes giving adequate attention to each student a virtual impossibility. Being unable to engage in careful observation of students prevents the implementation of progressive education. Consequently, Dewey's methods remain relevant and would be useful reading for both educators and parents alike.

This text also was proprietary to higher education as it covers the advent of all education and the importance of conceptual creations constructed by yester-year educational theorists that are still successfully in place today. Work experience is a theory promulgated by John Dewey in the 19th century that incorporated these experiences into the classroom curriculum is currently promoted in schools of the 21st century via academic credit for work experiences. In fact, several more of Mr. Dewey's theories abound effectively in modern institutions of higher education. Pedagogy again at its best.

I wholeheartedly recommend *Experience and Education* by John Dewey to anyone who has

experienced traditional schooling or is interested in the kinds of discussions that should merit national discourse, but somehow never edges out celebrity gossip for a spot on the evening news. It is interesting to look back on to my elementary and high school years through Dewey's lens. It is scary to think that on some level, I fell victim to the system, and makes me wonder who I would have been if I didn't have to sit through all those oppressive school days in my youth.

This book represents a concise statement of John Dewey's philosophy of education, in light of his own experience and reflection on his critics. These were originally his Kappa Delta Pi lectures, but are written in a more formal style than one would lecture today. The book makes a case for "progressive schools" with which Dewey was associated, while also recognizing the criticisms and misunderstandings of these schools. Given this purpose, Dewey often reacts against those on both sides who put progressive schools and traditional schools in opposition to one another. He is, of course, on the side of progressive schools. However, he also wants a more moderate ground that makes sense out of what each side is doing, and how they may share common principles even if those are manifest in very different ways. I was impressed that much of what he says here is still relevant after 75 years. It's amazing how much of the reformist agenda he shaped and anticipated, and how much we still fight these battles. If you are interested in improving education, this book still repays reading.

Book bad shape. But I guess you get what you pay for

This is an essential educational philosophy text. I highly recommend purchasing this text and the audible audio that syncs with the kindle book. I re-listen to what I've read in my vehicle or on my smartphone. This is a must read for any educational researcher, grad student, teacher or administrator.

This book offers timeless wisdom to constantly rethink one's approach to get to the heart of education while creating an approach that meets the real life needs of students. As far as philosophy goes, it's readable, but a little dense.

Amazing thank you very helpful! Highly recommended! Renee (Rivki) Silverberg Author of Understanding Children and Families with Autism Spectrum Disorders <http://www..com/Understanding-Children-Families-Spectrum-Disorders/dp/1622127269/ref>

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