I believe that anyone like me with a passion for something (in my case video editing) should be allowed to excel in his or her desired field of passion during high school. At this moment in time, I am at a standstill to learn what I need to learn to become successful in the video-editing field. Don’t get me wrong, core classes like history and math aren’t bad to learn, I just can’t excel in video editing with that knowledge. I believe schools should encourage students to master a field at an early age by teaching kids what they need to know.

One setback is money. Schools individually may not have enough money to educate kids in whatever students want to learn. My solution is to have different schools specialize in different fields of study, but of course, that’s what colleges are. High schools will never teach the same way colleges do, but people with a passion like mine should be able to be open to colleges. Just imagine how life would be if students at an earlier age could excel in the field of their choice before going to college officially. This is not just singled out to video editing. What if someone excelling in science was held back because he or she exceeded the high school classes? If community colleges could work along with high schools, by the time he or she graduates high school, they could be the next Albert Einstein. Why don’t students have the choice to be educated further in what they want to learn at an earlier age than 18 or 19? After all, education is to our (Americans’) benefit.

In this day and age, we are at war for our jobs with other countries, including China. With our education being restricted, our intelligence may not compare to China. If the idea of having high schools and colleges cooperate in educating American students, young adults will already be moderately prepared to work before officially going to college. If I, for instance, were able to take four years of college classes in the field of video editing during my high school years, I would be well on my way with education on video editing that I could proudly put on my transcript to later attend a “big shot” film editing college. Finally, this would be a revolutionized way for young adults in high school to excel in their passions and also save American jobs from competing countries. This is what I believe, now what do you believe?

For discussion or writing:
1. Do you agree or disagree with his ideas for schooling? What do you like about his suggestions? What does not make any sense, or is impractical? Why?

2. He states above that “high schools will never teach the same way colleges do”, so what does that mean high schools should do?

3. He asks, “Why don’t students have the choice to be educated further in what they want to learn at an earlier age than 18 or 19?” Agree or disagree and give your reasons.

4. Is it possible to “follow your dreams” if there are school barriers? Is there a solution?

*Adapted from the NPR Series, This I Believe*