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Enjoying the “Unaware/Unaware” Critics of OHSU

by DAVID on JANUARY 5, 2010

The Salt Lake Tribune recently ran a front page [feature](#) on the Open High School of Utah that generated a number of comments online. (More recent OHSU coverage at [eSchoolNews](#)). Many of the comments about the online school ran along these lines:

So much for peer relationships! Social growth is also a good idea – or was....

Re Taxpayer... these online courses lack the academic interaction between students that is so crucial to a great education

The fact that these readers are arguing with one another *in the online comment thread* about whether you can have meaningful academic or social interactions in an online setting is really just too delicious.

More interestingly, several students from the OHSU (who someone apparently forgot to tell that they can't have meaningful interactions online) have joined the argument, with posts like:

I would like to ask those who are posting on the article how much they REALLY know what they're talking about. Honestly. What do you know about OHSU (Open High School of Utah--what this article is all about)? Next to nothing. You know that it is an online charter school, it's curriculum is "open," and that there is a student named Jizelle. Am I missing anything? As a student at OHSU, I would like you all to stop trash talking my school until you understand exactly what it is you're talking about.

Hi, my name is Robin, I am a thirteen year old girl. I have been public schooled, home schooled, and I am in OHSU at the time being... I have more time to learn, and grow with OHSU. I am sorry if you like brick and mortar schools better, but the facts are, when there are 45+ students in a class with one mentor it becomes babysitting NOT teaching!

I am also a student of the Open High School of Utah... I really wish that people would cease with the stereotyping that children who learn at home lack social skills, have some sort of mental problem or disability (I'm pretty sure my mental health is great, thank you very much), or that this type of learning isn't as effective. Like what LisaMaren stated, OHSU uses discussion boards, in which we are REQUIRED to read through and respond to what the other students have to say. Yes, the posts are longer and well thought out since students are given the chance to sit there, think, and type it down rather than how it would be in an impromptu face-to-face conversation. Everyone has an equal chance to speak their mind and be heard--unlike in the traditional school, where the shy girl may be overshadowed by the know-it-all geek.

Is there a more enjoyable critic to listen to than the one who disproves his own point as he argues for it?



This blog is written and maintained by [David Wiley](#). Opinions are my own. Join me in showing [#OpenGratitude](#).

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