Insights of Hannah Arendt and Virtue Ethics on Education

Ben Bellinger
What is the purpose of education?
Answered with Hannah Arendt and Virtue Ethics
Hannah Arendt: Private

- Private:
- Labor
  - Survival
  - Biological
  - Hidden
  - Nothing is New
- Work
  - Worldly Items
    - Connect Generations
    - Allow for Communication
Hannah Arendt: Public

- Public:
- Highest Realm
- Equals
  - Away from Needs of Life and Physical Circumstances
- Distinguish/Reveal
  - Natality
- Arena for Action
Action

- Action:
- Performances
- Public Realm
- Individuals
- New=Never Performed Before
  - Reveal Natality
- Consequences Must be Unknown
  - Endless Possibilities
  - Judged After Time
- Examples
Educations Role

- Mediator
  - Protects Children from Public and Public From Children
  - Destroy Common World
- Introduce to Common/Public World
- Renew World
Critical Thinking

- Eichmann in Jerusalem
  - Banal Evil
  - Unable to Think and make Judgement= Bureacrat
    - Critical Thinking is Needed
- Critical Thinking= Self Dialogue
  - Tested in Public
  - Public= Judgement
Is Critical Thinking Taught in School?

- No: Can Not be Taught
- Need Public:
  - Do Not Know World
  - Amongst Equals
  - Community
  - Judgement
- Arendt Plans For Inexperienced Learners
Virtue Ethics

- What is a virtue:
- Character Trait or Disposition
- Lasting
- Action
- Good
- Correct Action, Reasoning, and Emotion
  - Goldilocks Virtue
  - Correct Means
Grounding the Virtues

- MacIntyre:
- Rejects Aristotle's Biological Teleology
- Still Need a Teleology
- Grounds in Practices
- Internal Goods
- Example: Fly Fishing-Patience
Learning a Virtue

Prerequisites:
- Aspire to be like teacher
- Desire to learn virtue
First Stage of Learning

- Observe Master
- Not Understand Concept
- Specific Situation
  - Does not Understand
Learning a Virtue

- Understanding
- Reasons Why
  - Phronesis=Practical Wisdom
- Universally Applicable
- Julia Annas and Alfred Brendal
Learning a Virtue

- Individual Use
- Understand Concepts in Action
- Somethings only can be learned from experience
- Continue Learning
  - Example: Shop class as Soul Craft and A River Runs Through It
Learning a Virtue

- Strive to Improve
- Further Virtue/Practice
  - Culturally Embedded
  - Examples: Art and Slavery
To Enter the Public

Education does not create finished products
  - Not College, Job, Etc.

Education can ONLY be finished in the public
  - Public Required=Teleology/Judgement
  - Learning from Experiences