

POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO QUOTE STIMULUS

QUOTE STIMULUS #1

The formulation of a problem is often more essential than its solution, which may be merely a matter of mathematical or experimental skill. To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advances... Albert Einstein

Face value--discuss what the quote means:

It is more important to question and explore new and old ideas from different perspectives than to just find a solution to a problem. Creativity is progress.

Extensions or digging deeper; provide personal connection

I think by creatively thinking 'outside the box', and looking at things in more ways, your problem solving actually gets better. It's like Einstein is saying the actual solving of the problem may just come down to number crunching or some other skill but figuring out how to do it or which 'tools' you need is the most important because it might be ground breaking or mind blowing..I sometimes get fixated on being able to do something but don't look at other ways to accomplish the task, like just asking for help from someone who can do it.

Wonderings?

1. I wonder if every type of question is truly useful? Sometimes questions you think of are pretty simple, compared to others that are super complex. Is it just the act of questioning that is an important process because it gets your mind moving?

QUOTE STIMULUS #2

Observe perpetually. Henry James

Face value – discuss what the quote means

Be aware of what is going on around you. Notice everything, always.

Extensions or digging deeper; provide personal connection

I think this means focus and try not to miss any details. Sometimes I get so focused on what I'm reading on my phone, I don't pay attention to someone who might be speaking to me (especially Mom and Dad) til they yell at me or maybe I don't fully pay attention to the toaster strudel I'm making until I smell it burning. It isn't a good thing to miss what's going on, since it often lands me in trouble.

Wonderings?

1. Does Henry James really mean to be aware of absolutely everything?
2. Can being aware be applied to all my senses? I often smell things faster than I see them, as well as feel them (like the wind on my face). Does taste count? Is it useful to think of this quote in terms of all my senses?
3. When is too much awareness a bad thing? I feel like it would be easy to become overwhelmed if I'm observing perpetually.

QUOTE STIMULUS #3

The future is not some place we are going to but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them changes the maker and the destination.

John Schaar

Face value – discuss what the quote means

The future is not an end destination because once we get to a certain point in the future, there is more future to come until we die. Each person's future is created by them like a path they trailblaze themselves.

Extensions or digging deeper; provide personal connection

It seems like he's saying that the pathway wasn't there before you started living it because everyone makes their own way. Nothing is fixed, and it means that even your 'future' isn't fixed. It could change, and you could change your mind or who you are or become. I always thought I would become an interpreter since I like learning languages, but I realized how stressful it would be if you didn't say the right information and a fight broke out. Then I wanted to be an artist. Then I wanted to be a teacher. I can already see I'm going to change my mind a few times, so I feel better knowing that it all doesn't have to be a single way, and I don't have to be a 'set' type of person.

Wonderings?

1. Why does society make it seem like paths are fixed, and there is only one route to success? 'You must become a Doctor, so you must do these steps in this order' but really who follows the exact cookie-cutter steps every time, every person?
2. Why is there no confidence in making your own life?

QUOTE STIMULUS #4

Take care of each other. Share your energies with the group. No one must feel alone, cut off, for that is when you do not make it. Willie Unsoeld

Face value – discuss what the quote means

Everyone should share their ideas and resources because progress and life is through working as a team. If you're not on a team, you'll die - either literally or in your soul.

Extensions or digging deeper; provide personal connection

Seems very dire on the one hand, but the quote indicates you die alone if you isolate yourself from the group. On the other hand you will thrive if you take care of each other in the group, and therefore survive yourself. I like group work when everyone works together and we all want to do well. I'd have to say we all end up getting bad marks and stop being friends when we don't work as a team.

Wonderings?

1. What if you don't like or trust others to take care of you since some people in the past have not? How broad a definition of survival is this?
2. Are humans really interdependent?

QUOTE STIMULUS #5

Listening is the beginning of understanding...Wisdom is the reward for a lifetime of understanding. Let the wise listen and add to their learning and let the discerning get guidance.

Proverbs 1:5

Face value – discuss what the quote means

Listening is important and makes you wise because you understand the situation or person better. Listening increases your knowledge and wisdom so you know where/how to get help.

Extensions or digging deeper; provide personal connection

If you don't really listen to what someone says, like between the lines, you can totally miss what they are truly thinking and feeling. I know how hard it is to tell even my Mom when I'm frustrated with a homework assignment and I begin to think I can't do anything. She listens and encourages me to talk. I feel so much better when I've been heard. I try hard to listen to others so I can be a better friend and classmate.

Wonderings?

1. Is listening the beginning of empathy? Sympathy?
2. Why don't people want to learn this way to become wise? Are you born with this skill or do you learn this skill?