

“The prolixity of studies as they are normally taught, derives from three causes: the first is the negligence in the distinction between things which are necessary and things which are not so that we are burdened with what Seneca complains of, that we ignore the necessary things because we know the unnecessary ones. ...

And we should consider unnecessary, first of all, all those things which, except for instruction, can be ignored, such as the names of the celestial divinities with their false traditions, and similar things.

Then all those things which tire the mind without any result, such as the greater part of the grammatical rules which macerate the minds of the youths and waste years and years, and things of the same useless nature of no utility outside the school.”

Comenius, 17th century, Moravia.

“Memorization requires an effort which can be minimal when the enrichment of new data satisfies the development of the thoughts that are being elaborated, or enormous when one has to accumulate new elements which are not immediately usable.”

Roberto Rosselini, “Reflections and Deliberations on Scientific Data to Attempt to Devise an Accessible Form of Integral Education”, 1976

“What one man ignores another man knows. What is not known in one country is in another, and all the knowledge available to man would be simultaneously possessed if all human interests were free to cross together into speculation or to act in its light.”

Dante Alighieri, 14th century