

The official name of our species is Homo Sapiens; but there are many anthropologists who prefer to think of man as Homo Faber — the smith, the maker of tools. It would be possible, I think, to reconcile these two definitions in a third. If man is a knower and an efficient doer, it is only because he is also a talker. In order to be Faber and Sapien, Homo must first be loquax, the loquacious one. Without language we should merely be hairless chimpanzees. Indeed we should be something much worse. Possessed of a high IQ but no language, we should be like the Yahoos of Gulliver's Travels — creatures too clever to be guided by instinct, too self-centered to live in a state of animal grace, and, therefore, condemned forever, frustrated and malignant, between contented ape-hood and aspiring humanity. It was language that made possible the accumulation of knowledge and the broadcasting of information. It was language that permitted the expression of religious insight, the formulation of ethical ideals and the codification of laws. It was language, in a word, that turned us into human beings and gave birth to civilization. (191 words)

Precis # 1

Title : Importance of Language for Humans

Language plays a crucial role in the development of a civilization. It is the only medium for expression of our ideas, a source of gaining knowledge and broadcasting it. A man is a doer and a knower only because he can talk. Without this ability he would've been worse than an animal. As high intelligence and no means of expression leads to nothing but frustration. Ethics, Laws and religious insights all are products of the language.

If then a practical end must be assigned to a university course, I say it is that of training good members of a society. It is the art of social life and its end is fitness for the world. It neither confines its views to particular professions, on the one hand, nor creates heroes or inspires genius on the other. Works indeed of genius fall under no art; heroic minds come under no rule. University is not a birthplace of poets or of immortal authors, of founders of schools, leaders of colonies, or conquerors of nations. It does not promise a generation of Aristotles or Newtons, of Napoleons or Washingtons, of Raphaels or Shakespeares though such miracles of nature it has before now contained within its precincts. Nor is it content, on the other hand, with forming the critic or the experimentalist, the economist or the engineer, though such too it includes within its scope. But university training is the great ordinary means to a great ordinary end; it aims at raising the intellectual tone of society, at cultivating the public mind, at purifying the national taste, at supplying true principles to popular aspirations. It is the education which gives a man a clear, conscious view of his own opinions and judgments, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them and a force in urging them. It teaches him to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophistical and to discard what is irrelevant. It prepares him to fill any post with credit and to master any subject with facility.

(276 words)

Precis #2

Title: Goal of a University

The main goal of a university is to train students to fit in the society. It is not a place where heroic figures, conquerors and leaders are born. A university is helpful in setting an intellectual tone of the society. It gives a man a clarity in his opinions, ~~is~~ ~~his~~ thoughts and judgements. It teaches ~~him~~ ~~how~~ a man how to be eloquent in expressing himself. Along with mastering a subject it prepares him for real life situations.