



## READING Time

1. Listen to Simon, an American high school student.

### Why do I go to school?

Why do we go to school? Adults always tell children and teenagers that they need to go to school to be successful in life. In contrast, many successful people never did finish high school. These contradictory aspects concerning the importance of school really discourage students from examining their real purposes of going to school every day.

Dear my fellow school-goers,

I am not here to tell you what school is all about because obviously it is different for everyone. I am sincerely writing this letter to encourage you to think deeply about what school means to you. I am not going to pretend that school is the most exciting place to be for everyone, but I will argue that school is the location for your first steps in life.

Unlike one of those clichés that you might have heard from your parents that without school you will end up as a failure, I will first admit that you will not necessarily be a failure if you do not do well in school. However, the importance of school must not be overlooked. School will give you so many opportunities in the future. The irony is that many do not realize this until they have either missed or taken these opportunities when they face the real world. At this point, for those who unfortunately did not grasp these opportunities, it is already too late in most cases. So it is probably a good idea to realize this sooner, which is now. School gives you the education you need to obtain the occupation you might desire. It earns you respect from the people who surround you and it gives you the tools you need to achieve or perhaps advance towards your future goals. Well, your personality is a big factor, too.

What I mean is, your personality will help you to apply the knowledge you get in school so that you can complete genuine tasks. In addition, school can make your life so much more enjoyable. When you really think about it, the knowledge that you gain from school can enhance your daily experiences. Please understand that I am not trying to say that school is the only place you can learn. Honestly, you can learn anywhere if you choose to. However, school is the most convenient and efficient place to learn.

“Why do I go to school?”, <http://teenink.com> (adapted and abridged), accessed in October 2013

#### DOCENTE



#### 20 AULA DIGITAL

■ Animação - Texto narrado  
Why do I go to school?





## LISTENING Time



### 1. Look at the photo.

1.1 Do you know who this person is?

1.2 Do some research to fill in this table.

Name	
Also known as	
Date of birth	
Born in	
Died in	
Occupations	

#### DOCENTE

#### Soluções

1.

1.1 It's Tupac Shakur.

1.2

**Name:** Tupac Amaru Shakur, born Lesane Paris Crooks

**Also known as:** 2Tpac, Makaveli, MC New

**Date of birth:** June 16, 1971

**Born in:** Brooklyn, New York

**Died in:** Las Vegas, Nevada

**Occupations:** Rapper, actor, record producer, poet, screenwriter, activist, writer

2. **Model answer:** Friends, fun, education, teachers, graduation, classes, preparing for the future, learning, choosing a career, study, research...



AUDIO CD  
track 19

3.

a. tradition; b. learning  
c. curriculum; d. basics;  
e. today's; f. streets;  
g. important; h. busy  
i. messed up



AUDIO CD  
track 20

4.

Police brutality; Religion;  
Racism; Apathy; Hunger;  
Sex education; Drugs

### 2. What words and phrases do you associate with "School"? With your partner, make a list of at least ten.

2.1 Compare your list with another pair and justify your choices.

### 3. Listen to Tupac being interviewed at the age of 17 and fill in the gaps.

"I think that we got so caught up in school being a <sup>(a)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that we stopped using it as a <sup>(b)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ tool, which it should be. Up to this day. I mean school should be, I think there should be a different <sup>(c)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in each and every like neighborhood you know. Because I'm going to Tamalpais High and I'm learning about the <sup>(d)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, but they're not basic for me, you know.

They're not, to get us ready for <sup>(e)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ world. They're not, that's not helping. It's just what they took, so that's what we're gonna take. So that's why the <sup>(f)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ have taught me. But school is really <sup>(g)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Reading, writing, arithmetic. But I think after you learn reading, writing, arithmetic, that's it. But what they tend to do is teach you reading, writing, and arithmetic then teach you reading, writing, and arithmetic again then again then again, just making it harder and harder, just to keep you <sup>(h)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. And that's where I think they <sup>(i)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_."

3.1 Listen to this part of the interview again and check your answers.

### 4. Tupac believed that a lot of subjects should be taught in schools. Listen to him again, and tick (✓) the ones he mentions.

☐ English

☐ Science

☐ Police brutality

☐ Religion

☐ Racism

☐ Physical Education

☐ Maths

☐ Apathy

☐ Hunger

☐ Sex education

☐ ICT

☐ Drugs

☐ Algebra

☐ Hypocrisy

☐ Politics