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## The Importance for Bilingual Education

Audience: My audience is directed to people who work in the school setting, and the General public who is concerned about education for minority children.

Having bilingual education in schools is very important, especially for minority children just starting school. I do not think that having bilingual education is as important for minority students in high schools, but in the younger years it is important that kids are able to learn from their primary language. By teaching young kids in their primary language, it can cause students to do better in school in the future. As a future teacher, I've been learning how important it is to include all students in lessons, whether this is through bilingual education or changing the lessons to help those who have different styles of learning

**Comment [BKB1]:** I stated my thesis in my introduction then I further went on to explain how I feel about the subject and why it matters to me.

In dealing with social and academic problems, supporters like me believe that children do better socially and academically using bilingual education. Their families are able to communicate better, parents are able to teach morals to their kids more efficiently, and the students seem to get a deeper and meaningful education when taught from their first language (Mei-Yu Lu, 1998). Growing up in a home where the child is forced to learn a different language very quickly can cause children to struggle with which language they should be using and this can lead to the inability to speak each language fluently.

**Comment [BKB2]:** Here I added the Year that he wrote this article to do the correct APA format.

When children are taught from their primary language, they are more able to develop knowledge that is needed in the future to learn English and other subjects. In the Eric Digest *Why Bilingual Education?*, Krashen declares that literacy and knowledge come from a child being taught in their primary language. This supports the argument for bilingual education because it shows how important it is for children to be taught in their first language in order to develop better learning techniques.

Immigrants that are forced to learn English right away can often feel like they are overwhelmed with a new language and trying to do regular school work in that foreign language. In the article *Immigrant parents join campaign against bilingual education* by Beth Frerking, she interviewed a man named Richard Tapia. Tapia was forced to learn English right away, and he declares that it was the best thing that could have been done because it forced him to work hard to “compete at the same level” as those who speak English. Frerking explains that Tapia insists that the bilingual education program is only hurting minority children and that the bilingual education programs should end. I believe that although this man has a good argument, he does not explain some of the struggles that he has had while being forced to learn English, so this argument does not fully confirm the idea of English only in schools. In Krashen’s article, he discusses how people can have success with out bilingual education, but “in these cases, however, the successful person got plenty of comprehensible input in the second language.” This shows that people like Tapia can be successful, but most likely; they had a lot of help along the way, especially when they were younger to help them learn faster.

**Comment [BK3]:** Here I tried to counter the debate in order to give both points of view that I am dealing with in my paper.

Some immigrants come to this country to be Americanized and have their children immersed in English-only classrooms, but while researching, I noticed that many of those students cannot catch up because they are not taught English very efficiently and this can cause some to drop out of schools. We do not want minority students to be dropping out of schools when they grow older because if they do, this can deter them from getting jobs, and it can also hurt out society due to the fact that we will have more homeless people because they don't have a job to pay for their everyday needs. In order to stop them from dropping out, we need to make sure that our programs can develop in them the cognitive knowledge they need to be able to learn English better in the future. But do such programs really work? In an article I found, *Does Bilingual Ed Work? By James Crawford*, it lists reasons why bilingual education is being held back from its full potential. Some of the reasons are:

1. Small amount of staff to cater to the needs of those involved in these programs
2. Bilingual education programs are not the only reason for drop outs, there are many other reasons, bilingual Ed just gets blamed for them.
3. There are many other factors that can account for the success of a student, not just bilingual education. (Crawford)

It is hard for kids in English Only to catch up and this can cause them to drop out.

By forcing kids into English Immersion programs, it does not allow them to gain the basic learning techniques needed, but, yes, they do learn English quickly, but does that mean they know it well? In Frerking's article she discusses how parents who have immigrated feel that bilingual education programs are hindering their kids because when a student is not able to speak English fluently, they will not be able to get a good job.

**Comment [BKB4]:** I added this to show how the problem earlier stated can have a bad effect on our society, so I related it to us personally.

**Comment [BKB5]:** I changed this from English only programs to what I have now, because this is what these programs are called in schools.

Some of the immigrant parents claim that the only reason they came to America was “to make a better life for their children.” Some insist that the only way to make a better life for their children is if their child is fluent in English because of an English Only program (Frerking). I suggest that children can be fluent in English, but having learned from their first language all the basic skills they need will help them be better English speakers in the future.

Bilingual education is good because it includes all students, helps them to succeed in their education, and allows them the knowledge to better learn English in the future because they have learned well, in their own language, the basics of cognitive knowledge. In the book *Teaching Today*, Armstrong, Henson, and Savage discuss multicultural education. The book’s definition for multiculturalism is “education that promotes educational equity for all learners.” . . . The book goes on to talk about a culturally responsive environment “that is comfortable for learners and their teacher and that enables learners to make acceptable academic progress. Catering to the needs of each student can make them feel involved in the classroom, which I believe, can give a child the confidence needed to succeed better in his school work

**Comment [BKB6]:** I listed who the authors were of the books to be more specific when giving credit.

Bilingual education is very important in schools because it allows each child to feel included, develop the knowledge needed for learning other things, and do better socially academically. These characteristics are very important for a child to have when they are younger so that when they are in a higher learning level, or the “real world,” they will be more prepared and equipped to do better because of their strong base of knowledge that they learned by being taught in their primary language.

## Works Cited

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