

Arg. 2012

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I believe that ~~yes~~ if you are certain that you can achieve something, then you should not doubt yourself. The quote by William Lyon Phelps, means to me that if you are certain you can do anything, then you ~~can~~ can, no matter what others believe. I agree with this quote completely because if you have absolute confidence in yourself, you have no reason to doubt your abilities. The best example of this is my lacrosse team. We went into our playoff game completely confident and without a doubt in our minds that we would win, and in the end we ~~earned~~ earned the victory we worked so hard for. You can not live life doubting yourself because those doubts turn into insecurities and fear, causing you not to live life to its full potential. When faced with an obstacle, be certain that you will overcome it and have the confidence to know that you will.

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It is true that certainty can help us to achieve great things, but if this was always true, why would people ever experience doubtful feelings? The reason for this is that doubts can help us to create ~~our~~ limits and to help us to know how much of something we can ^{accomplish} ~~do~~. People need to know when to trust themselves, and accordingly be certain or doubtful at the right times. Phelps and Russell both show valid points in that feelings of certainty and doubt have certain times to ^{show} ~~show~~ through ^{as a} ~~more~~ prominent feeling ~~more~~, but they need to be situational.

Like Phelps states, "with a sense of certainty" you can get yourself to accomplish virtually anything, ^{and} in many cases this is true. For example, ~~when~~ going into a big test it is more useful to be certain in your knowledge and ability to answer the questions correctly. Doubt can create uncertainty in times like this and it is more likely that ^{an} incorrect answer will be chosen. I also personally know that

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certainly is more important in certain circumstances. When I play softball I know that if I am certain that I will play well I will have more confidence and actually do better because I was in the right mindset.

In a bigger, more important view, certainty can be used to achieve greater things, like the creation of our government and breaking away from England. When ~~Americans~~ ^{Colonists} were uncertain that they should become independent, they were afraid so they were forced to pay ridiculous taxes. ~~they never actually did~~. It wasn't until they were confident that they could do just fine as an independent country that they were able to do so. ~~Also~~ ^{and were free of England's pointless rules.} Certainty can achieve great things when it brings confidence.

Although certainty can help to bring about an important sense to achieve greatness, people need to know their limits and when to doubt whether something is too much. ~~Then~~ A perfect example of

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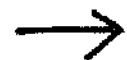
this can be displayed in John Krakauer's Into the Wild, where Chris McCandless' tragic death comes inevitably when he believes he can live all by himself in the wild. He believed he could take care of himself, and that there was nothing out there that could stop him. Some doubt as to if he knew everything necessary or whether he had all the correct supplies could have saved his life. This shows how doubt is sometimes necessary to create a person's limits.

While Phelps claims that certainty is most important, Russell claims that we should always have some measure of doubt. In actuality, they are both correct, there are just appropriate times for each. Certainty can help a person to achieve great things, but some doubt must be present at times to define the limits available to a person. This doubt could save a life.

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Our world is constantly wrought with the concept that certainty can allow one to achieve all of one's desires, dreams, and destinies. But this ever-present idea is utterly misleading. One cannot rely on certainty because nothing is truly certain. Everything that we hold to be true hasn't been proven wrong, but who is to say that it couldn't be? There is no pre-determined power that states if one is so completely transfixed and certain, they will be able to conquer all that believes otherwise. Doubt, in many ways, can be a comfort. Doubt is what allows us to question and challenge those certainties. Without doubt, our society would be merely an unpenetrable reality in which creativity and ingenuity would be disregarded. Certainty is a safety blanket that covers the possible truths underneath.

~~For example~~ In history, countless examples of doubt have changed the world as we know it. One of the most glaring of these being sending men into space and from space, landing on the moon. This was thought to be absolute nonsense just a mere 20 or so years before it happened. Science Fiction seemed to be becoming a reality. Although science fiction to many seemed to have no basis of truth, there are more and more connections being made between ridiculous or ludicrous concepts then, but undeniable realities now.



Question 3:

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One of the most important components of doubt is trial and error. One cannot be certain something will make sense or work if one has not tested this concept whether by ~~experiment~~ experimentation or refutation. For example, If Thomas Edison was absolutely certain he had created a means to harness electricity and produce light, but not tested it over 50 times, his certainty would be invalid. However, his influx of doubt and therefore his willingness to augment and changed based upon that doubt, enabled him produce what could be ^{arguably} the most important scientific discovery of our age.

~~One of the most important components of doubt is trial and error.~~ Yet another example of the importance of doubt is perhaps the most controversial topic amongst us; the doubt of religion. Whether or not one has faith and is certain of that faith, is irrefutable. There are hence, two sides to this ^{cause} ~~cause~~. Because nothing has been definitely proved that a higher, supreme power exists, then why could there not be one present? On the other hand, because there has been no evidence of such a thing, why ~~could~~ does there have to be one? However, even in this process of comparing the two sides one is doubting, because one is extrapolating that either could be true. If either are true,



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we are uncertain.

In conclusion, the use of doubt has brought upon many debates, changes, and ~~ideas~~ ideas whether for better or worse. This debate of uncertainty or certainty has been entrenched in our culture's consciousness ~~for~~ possibly since its inception. But if we were to deny that the geniuses of our times did not doubt, we are making a vast and unintelligent assumption. Without the doubts of such like Charles Rutherford or Niels Bohr who revolutionized the model of the atom, or Thomas Jefferson and James Madison who provided arguments against the Alien & Sedition acts rather than accept that they are certain, our world would not be anything like the way it is. One thing is certain; Doubt is an absolute necessity.

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