

# Robert M. Hutchins

## Quotes

*Education, Thinking, Ideas, Football, Important, America, Men, Teacher,  
Learning, Facts, Issues, Lying, Life, Mean, Inspirational, Book, Democracies  
Have, World, Light, School*

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

~Robert M. Hutchins

The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.

~Robert M. Hutchins

It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts... it is to teach them to think.

~Robert M. Hutchins

We can put television in its proper light by supposing that Gutenberg's great invention had been directed at printing only comic books.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Football, fraternities and fun have no place in the university. They were introduced only to entertain those who shouldn't be in the university.

~Robert M. Hutchins

This is a do-it-yourself test for paranoia: you know you've got it when you can't think of anything that's your fault.

~Robert M. Hutchins

The best education for the best is the best education for all.

~Robert M. Hutchins

A civilization in which there is not a continuous controversy about important issues is on the way to totalitarianism and death

~Robert M. Hutchins

College football: I do not see the relationship of those highly industrialized affairs on Saturday afternoons to higher learning in

America.

~Robert M. Hutchins

For those who are going to learn from books, learning the art of reading would seem to be indispensable.

~Robert M. Hutchins

A student can win twelve letters at a university without learning how to write one.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Education is a kind of continuing dialogue, and a dialogue assumes different points of view.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Mathematics ... is indispensable as an intellectual technique. In many subjects, to think at all is to think like a mathematician.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Nobody can read Freud without realizing that he was the scientific equivalent of another nuisance, George Bernard Shaw.

~Robert M. Hutchins

...The task is overwhelming, and the chance is slight. We must take the chance or die.

~Robert M. Hutchins

We call Japanese soldiers fanatics when they die rather than surrender, whereas American soldiers who do the same thing are called heroes.

~Robert M. Hutchins

More free time means more time to waste. The worker who used to have only a little time in which to get drunk and beat his wife now has time to get drunk, beat his wife - and watch TV.

~Robert M. Hutchins

My idea of education is to unsettle the minds of the young and inflame their intellects.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Most people spend their time on the 'urgent' rather than on the 'important.'

~Robert M. Hutchins

It is not so important to be serious as it is to be serious about the important things.

~Robert M. Hutchins

When we listen to the radio, look at television and read the newspapers we wonder whether universal education has been the great boon that its supporters have always claimed it would be.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Freedom of inquiry, freedom of discussion, and freedom of teaching - without these a university cannot exist.

~Robert M. Hutchins

To solve a problem it is necessary to think. It is necessary to think even to decide what facts to collect.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Every act of every man is a moral act, to be tested by moral, and not by economic criteria.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Democracy has not failed; the intelligence of the race has failed before the problems the race has raised

~Robert M. Hutchins

There is only one justification for universities, as distinguished from trade schools. They must be centers of criticism.

~Robert M. Hutchins

When I feel like exercising I just lie down until the feeling goes away.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Anybody who feels at ease in the world today is a fool.

~Robert M. Hutchins

The college graduate is presented with a sheepskin to cover his intellectual nakedness.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Education can be dangerous. It is very difficult to make it not dangerous. In fact, it is almost impossible.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Nature will not forgive those who fail to fulfill the law of their being. The law of human beings is wisdom and goodness, not unlimited acquisition.

~Robert M. Hutchins

The policy of the repression of ideas cannot work and never has worked. The alternative to it is the long difficult road of education. To this the American people have committed.

~Robert M. Hutchins

The most distressing aspect of the world into which you are going is its indifference to the basic issues, which now, as always, are moral issues.

~Robert M. Hutchins

It has been said that we have not had the three R's in America, we had

the six R's; remedial readin', remedial 'ritin' and remedial 'rithmetic.

~Robert M. Hutchins

The policy of repression of ideas cannot work and never has worked.

~Robert M. Hutchins

We do not know what education can do for us, because we have never tried it.

~Robert M. Hutchins

It sometimes seems as though we were trying to combine the ideal of no schools at all with the democratic ideal of schools for everybody by having schools without education.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Whether four years of strenuous attention to football and fraternities is the best preparation for professional work has never been seriously investigated.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Too few have the courage of my convictions.

~Robert M. Hutchins

On the principle laid down by Gilbert and Sullivan that when everybody is somebody, nobody is anybody; if everybody is abnormal, we don't need to worry about anybody.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Whenever the urge to exercise comes upon me, I lie down for a while and it passes.

~Robert M. Hutchins

...the fullest development of the highest powers of men can be achieved only in a world of peace.

~Robert M. Hutchins

Equality and justice, the two great distinguishing characteristics of democracy, follow inevitably from the conception of men, all men, as rational and spiritual beings.

~Robert M. Hutchins

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