

## What are my credentials?

Well, I made it through high school with a C average (I was bored)... Although my math and algebra scores were A+. - Thanks to a marvelous teacher, Mr Copp (photo)

I had wanted to attend college for a degree in music, but life took me on a hands-on path. So I opted for self-study, electronics, general science, general chemistry, and music, of course. Later, I became adept at analog circuit design and was in demand for custom electronics in Nashville for custom equipment.

I spent many years on the road working with various artists, and during that time, I learned all about various musical instruments. By 1980, I was studying acoustics and physics. I love everything about physics, acoustics, electronics, and music. I have never stopped learning.

**I am auto-didactic.**

Most of you are auto-didactic. Of course you are.

As much as I would like to have a Master's in physics, it would only help me in the eyes of those who have faith in institutions. It would only show my desire for "approval", and I have NO desire for approval. I need none. My life's works are my CREDENTIALS. I know and understand physics, acoustics, electronics, building structures, plumbing, electrical, roofing, etc.

In fact, during my career, I have hardly ever hired a degree-holding person. Instead, I would find out "what they could DO".

As Elon Musk has repeatedly stated that having a college degree is not required for learning or for being successful. He argues, "You don't need college to learn stuff. Everything is available basically for free. You can learn anything you want for free. It is not a question of learning. I think colleges are basically for fun and to prove you can do your chores. But, they're not for learning".

All one needs is to apply oneself.

Famous Auto didactics:

Historical Figures

Leonardo da Vinci: The Renaissance artist, inventor, and scientist who learned through observation and experimentation instead of schooling.

Benjamin Franklin: Polymath and Founding Father of the U.S., who was a successful printer, writer, scientist, and inventor, all self-taught.

Abraham Lincoln: America's 16th president had little formal education and taught himself to read, write, and study law.



Frederick Douglass: Learned to read and write despite being born into slavery, where education was prohibited; became a leading abolitionist and orator.

Ada Lovelace: Mathematician known as the first computer programmer, largely self-taught in mathematics.

Michael Faraday: English scientist, key contributor to electromagnetism and electrochemistry, taught himself science after a basic education.

#### Modern Innovators & Entrepreneurs

Steve Jobs: Dropped out of college, learned about design, technology, and business independently, and revolutionized consumer electronics.

Bill Gates: Learned programming on his own from a young age, dropped out of Harvard to build Microsoft.

Elon Musk: Self-taught in rocket science by reading textbooks and consulting experts before starting SpaceX.

Tim Ferriss: Entrepreneur, author, and podcaster who taught himself skills ranging from writing to business and cooking, using structured self-learning.

#### Writers & Creatives

Emily Dickinson: A Renowned poet who was mostly self-taught in literature and poetry, thanks to her family's library.

Maya Angelou: Dropped out of school in her teens, self-educated through reading, became a celebrated poet and author.

Steven Pressfield: Novelist who taught himself the craft by reading great literature and practicing writing on his own.

#### Scientists and Mathematicians

Srinivasa Ramanujan: A largely self-educated mathematician who made major contributions to number theory and other fields.

Antonie van Leeuwenhoek: A Merchant who taught himself scientific principles, built microscopes, and became "the Father of Microbiology".

#### Musicians & Artists

Eddie Van Halen: Could not read music but taught himself multiple instruments and became a rock legend.

Frank Zappa: Musician and composer noted for encouraging others to self-educate.

Ornette Coleman: Jazz composer who taught himself several instruments.

Others

Frank Lloyd Wright: Pioneering architect who developed new methods before architecture was a formal discipline.

Jane Jacobs: Influential urban theorist with only a high school degree, self-taught in urban planning, economics, and sociology.

**Don't let anyone put you down because you don't have a degree! Life, experience, and your self-education are your credentials!**

YES, people will be jealous, envious, and hateful. Their opinions don't matter at all. Your work will stand on its own, and you need no permission or acceptance.

DO what you LOVE.