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What is the importance of language and literacy in creating a successful world citizen?

Nowadays, with the increasingly complex and diverse state that the world is in, it has become extremely important and even compulsory to recognize what it takes to be a part of this society.

To be an active participant in today's society, one must be able to exercise their critical and independent thinking. This can be achieved mainly through the correct interpretation of democracy: Democracy should be viewed not only as a form of governance but also a way socially prospering. One must know and value concepts like solidarity, fairness and self determination among others and should have a firm grasp of competences such as being informed, responsible and open minded to be considered a democratic citizen.

The acquisition of these competences are through language and literacy - this is where we'll see their importance in creating a democratic citizen, who will eventually become a successful world citizen. However, language on its own doesn't have much purpose unless it's used as a means of transmission of knowledge. School plays an important role in this, especially in providing students with a democratic learning environment and opportunities, while also encouraging and empowering their pupils; European schools do a fairly good job at this, considering the diverse set of opportunities that they present their students.

The information transmitted through the use of language and therefore literacy, will open up many windows in one's mind and broaden one's perspective of the world. This will result in a person capable of thinking clearly, having clearness of speech and criticising properly.
Finally, these competences, when considered together with those of a democratic citizen which were mentioned earlier, can create a successful world citizen.