

excellent sheep

excellent sheep is a term that has sparked widespread debate and deep introspection within the world of education, especially among students, parents, educators, and employers. Popularized by William Deresiewicz's influential book, the phrase refers to individuals who excel academically but are perceived to lack independent thought, creativity, or a true sense of purpose. This article delves into what "excellent sheep" means, its origins, the factors fueling its rise, and the impact on students and society. We'll explore signs of this phenomenon, critique the current educational system, and offer practical strategies for fostering true intellectual growth and personal fulfillment. By the end, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the excellent sheep concept and how it shapes the future of education and professional life.

- Understanding the Term "Excellent Sheep"
- The Origin and Popularization of Excellent Sheep
- Signs and Characteristics of Excellent Sheep
- Factors Leading to the Rise of Excellent Sheep
- Critiques of the Modern Educational System
- Consequences for Students and Society
- Strategies to Avoid Becoming Excellent Sheep
- Conclusion: Rethinking Success and Education

Understanding the Term "Excellent Sheep"

The phrase "excellent sheep" refers to students who achieve impressive academic records, gain admission to prestigious universities, and secure coveted jobs, yet often lack genuine passion, creativity, or independent thought. These individuals are typically adept at following instructions, meeting expectations, and excelling within established systems. However, critics argue that their success comes at the cost of personal exploration, self-discovery, and the ability to challenge the status quo. The term encapsulates a growing concern that educational institutions are producing graduates who are outwardly accomplished but inwardly unfulfilled or lacking direction.

The Origin and Popularization of Excellent Sheep

“Excellent sheep” entered mainstream discourse primarily through William Deresiewicz’s 2014 book, *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite*. Deresiewicz, a former Yale professor, used the term to describe the students he encountered at Ivy League schools and other elite universities. He argued that these students were extremely talented and hardworking but often lacked a sense of purpose or the ability to think critically and independently. According to Deresiewicz, the intense pressure to achieve academic and extracurricular success led many students to become risk-averse, anxious, and disconnected from their deeper interests and values. The concept quickly resonated with educators, students, and parents, sparking debates about the purpose of education and the true meaning of success.

Signs and Characteristics of Excellent Sheep

Identifying excellent sheep involves looking beyond grades and resumes to recognize patterns of behavior and mindset. While every student is unique, certain traits often distinguish those who fit the “excellent sheep” description.

Common Traits of Excellent Sheep

- Exceptional academic achievement but little intrinsic motivation
- Reluctance to take risks or challenge authority
- Strong focus on external validation and approval
- Difficulty articulating personal passions or interests
- Preference for safe, conventional career paths
- High levels of stress, anxiety, and perfectionism
- Lack of engagement with ideas outside their coursework

Behavioral Patterns

Excellent sheep often meticulously plan their academic and extracurricular activities to optimize college applications and job prospects. They tend to join clubs, volunteer, or pursue leadership roles primarily for their resume value rather than authentic interest. These students may avoid controversial topics, unconventional classes, or creative endeavors that do not align with established success metrics. Their decisions are driven by the desire to meet expectations rather than personal fulfillment.

Factors Leading to the Rise of Excellent Sheep

Several interrelated factors have contributed to the proliferation of excellent sheep in recent decades. These influences shape student behavior from an early age and persist through higher education and into professional life.

Parental and Societal Pressure

Parents, often motivated by a desire to secure their children's futures, can inadvertently encourage a narrow focus on achievement. Societal messages equate success with prestigious schools, top grades, and lucrative careers, reinforcing the idea that there is a singular path to fulfillment. This pressure starts early, with children enrolled in enrichment programs, competitive sports, and advanced classes to stay ahead.

Standardized Testing and College Admissions

The emphasis on standardized testing, advanced placement courses, and extracurricular "checklists" has made the college admissions process more competitive and formulaic. Students learn to optimize for metrics rather than genuine learning, creativity, or exploration. This system rewards conformity and discourages risk-taking or unorthodox interests.

Institutional Incentives

Educational institutions, seeking to maintain high rankings and attract funding, may prioritize students who excel at standardized measures of success. The result is a feedback loop in which students tailor their efforts to what schools value, further entrenching the excellent sheep mentality.

Critiques of the Modern Educational System

Critics argue that the current educational system inadvertently encourages the development of excellent sheep. By emphasizing grades, test scores, and prestigious credentials, schools may neglect the cultivation of independent thought, creativity, and emotional intelligence.

Lack of Intellectual Exploration

Many students are discouraged from taking intellectual risks or pursuing unconventional

interests out of fear of jeopardizing their academic records. This stifles curiosity and hinders the development of original ideas.

Overemphasis on Metrics

The relentless pursuit of quantifiable achievements—such as GPA, standardized test scores, and extracurricular activities—can overshadow deeper forms of learning. Students may come to view education as a means to an end, rather than a transformative process.

Limited Support for Well-being

The pressure to perform can lead to mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, and burnout. Schools may lack sufficient resources to support students' emotional well-being, further compounding the problem.

Consequences for Students and Society

The rise of excellent sheep has far-reaching implications for individuals and society. While these students often achieve outward success, the internal costs can be significant.

Personal Costs

- Loss of intrinsic motivation and joy in learning
- Difficulty forming a clear sense of identity or purpose
- Increased risk of anxiety, depression, and burnout
- Challenges in adapting to unstructured or ambiguous situations

Societal Impact

When large numbers of talented individuals prioritize conformity and external validation, innovation and critical thinking may suffer. Employers may find that graduates lack the creativity and independence needed to solve complex problems. A society dominated by excellent sheep risks stagnation and reduced adaptability in the face of change.

Strategies to Avoid Becoming Excellent Sheep

Students, parents, and educators can take proactive steps to foster genuine intellectual growth and personal fulfillment. The goal is to nurture independent thinkers who are capable of making meaningful contributions to society.

Encouraging Intellectual Curiosity

Students should be encouraged to explore subjects outside their comfort zones and pursue learning for its own sake. This might involve reading widely, engaging in open-ended projects, or participating in discussions that challenge their assumptions.

Valuing Process Over Product

Emphasizing the importance of effort, exploration, and learning from failure—rather than just outcomes—can help students develop resilience and a growth mindset. Parents and educators can model this attitude by celebrating curiosity and persistence.

Supporting Mental Health and Well-being

- Prioritizing balance between academics and personal interests
- Encouraging self-reflection and mindfulness practices
- Providing access to mental health resources and counseling

Redefining Success

Success should be defined in broader terms than grades, test scores, or job titles. Personal fulfillment, meaningful relationships, community engagement, and lifelong learning all contribute to a well-rounded and satisfying life.

Conclusion: Rethinking Success and Education

The concept of “excellent sheep” challenges deeply held assumptions about what it means to succeed in education and life. While academic achievement has value, it should not come at the expense of independent thought, creativity, or well-being. By recognizing the limitations of the current system and adopting strategies to foster authentic growth,

students and educators can create a more balanced, purposeful, and innovative future.

Q: What does the term “excellent sheep” mean in education?

A: “Excellent sheep” refers to students who excel academically and meet society’s conventional standards of success but may lack independent thought, creativity, and a sense of true purpose.

Q: Who popularized the phrase “excellent sheep”?

A: The term was popularized by William Deresiewicz in his 2014 book, *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite*, where he criticized elite education for stifling independent thinking.

Q: What are some common traits of excellent sheep?

A: Common traits include high academic achievement, risk aversion, focus on external validation, preference for safe career paths, and difficulty articulating personal passions.

Q: Why is the rise of excellent sheep considered a problem?

A: The phenomenon is concerning because it can lead to a lack of innovation, creativity, and adaptability in society, as well as increased stress and dissatisfaction among students.

Q: What role do parents and society play in creating excellent sheep?

A: Parents and society often emphasize achievement and prestigious credentials, pressuring students to conform to narrow definitions of success from a young age.

Q: How can students avoid becoming excellent sheep?

A: Students can avoid this by exploring diverse interests, taking intellectual risks, focusing on intrinsic motivation, and redefining what success means to them.

Q: What impact does the current educational system have on the excellent sheep phenomenon?

A: The educational system’s focus on grades, standardized tests, and measurable achievements tends to reward conformity and discourage independent thought.

Q: Are there negative mental health effects associated with being an excellent sheep?

A: Yes, students fitting this profile may experience higher levels of stress, anxiety, depression, and burnout due to constant pressure to perform.

Q: What changes could improve the situation for future students?

A: Shifting the focus from metrics to personal growth, creativity, and emotional well-being, as well as encouraging intellectual exploration, can help nurture more well-rounded individuals.

Q: How can educators support students in overcoming the excellent sheep mindset?

A: Educators can create environments that value curiosity, critical thinking, and diverse perspectives, providing opportunities for meaningful exploration and self-discovery.

[Excellent Sheep](#)

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Excellent Sheep: A Deep Dive into Superior Ovine Genetics and Husbandry

Are you intrigued by the world of sheep farming? Do you dream of producing the finest fleece, the most succulent lamb, or the most robust breeding stock? Then this blog post is for you. We'll explore what constitutes an "excellent sheep," delving into the genetics, husbandry practices, and key characteristics that define superior ovine animals. From breed selection to optimal nutrition and disease prevention, we'll equip you with the knowledge to identify and raise truly excellent sheep.

Defining "Excellent Sheep": More Than Just Fluffy Fleece

The term "excellent sheep" is subjective, depending on your specific goals. However, several key factors consistently contribute to superior animals. Let's break down the critical components:

1. Genetics: The Foundation of Excellence

Genetic selection is paramount. Choosing a breed that aligns with your objectives – whether it's wool production, meat yield, or dairy – is the first step. Consider these aspects:

Breed Characteristics: Research breeds known for their desired traits. Some breeds excel in fleece quality (e.g., Merino), others in meat production (e.g., Suffolk), and still others in both (e.g., Dorset).

Pedigree Analysis: Examine the lineage of potential breeding stock. A strong pedigree indicates a history of desirable traits within the family line, increasing the likelihood of producing excellent offspring.

Genetic Testing: Advanced techniques like DNA testing can identify desirable genes associated with traits like disease resistance, fertility, and fleece quality, enabling more precise breeding decisions.

2. Husbandry Practices: Nurturing Excellence

Even the best genetics require proper care to thrive. Excellent sheep husbandry encompasses:

Nutrition: A balanced diet is crucial. This involves providing adequate amounts of high-quality forage, supplements (as needed), and access to fresh water. Nutritional deficiencies directly impact growth, reproduction, and overall health.

Health Management: Regular parasite control, vaccination, and hoof trimming are essential for preventing diseases and maintaining optimal health. Early detection and treatment of illnesses are crucial.

Housing and Fencing: Provide appropriate shelter from harsh weather conditions and secure fencing to prevent escapes and predation. The environment significantly influences animal well-being and productivity.

Breeding Management: Implement a sound breeding program tailored to your goals. This might include artificial insemination, careful selection of breeding rams, and appropriate flock management to maximize lambing rates.

3. Physical Characteristics: Indicators of Excellence

Beyond genetics and husbandry, certain physical characteristics often indicate an excellent sheep:

Body Condition Score: A healthy body condition score reflects proper nutrition and overall health. Animals that are too thin or too fat may have underlying health issues.

Fleece Quality (for wool breeds): Assess fleece characteristics like fiber diameter, length, strength, and crimp. These factors directly influence the value and quality of the wool.

Conformation: The overall structure and body proportions should be balanced and appropriate for the breed. Poor conformation can lead to lameness and reduced productivity.

Temperament: While not directly related to productivity, a docile temperament makes handling and management much easier and safer for both the farmer and the sheep.

Identifying and Selecting Excellent Sheep: Practical Tips

When selecting excellent sheep, consider these practical steps:

Visual Inspection: Carefully examine the animal's physical characteristics, noting its conformation, body condition, and fleece quality (if applicable).

Performance Records: Obtain performance data if available, such as weaning weights, fleece yields, and lambing rates. These records provide valuable insights into the animal's productivity.

Veterinary Checkup: A veterinary examination can identify any underlying health issues that might impact the animal's future performance.

Consult with Experts: Seek advice from experienced sheep farmers or breed specialists to gain valuable insights and avoid costly mistakes.

Conclusion

Raising excellent sheep requires a combination of superior genetics, diligent husbandry practices, and a keen eye for detail. By understanding the factors that contribute to superior ovine animals and implementing sound management strategies, you can significantly enhance the quality and productivity of your flock. Remember, the journey towards producing excellent sheep is an ongoing process of learning, adaptation, and refinement.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What are the most profitable breeds of excellent sheep? Profitability depends on your market and goals. Breeds known for high wool production (Merino), meat production (Suffolk), or dual-purpose capabilities (Dorset) are often popular choices.

Q2: How often should I shear my sheep? Shearing frequency varies by breed and climate but generally occurs once a year, typically in the spring.

Q3: What are common health problems in sheep? Common issues include parasites (internal and external), footrot, pneumonia, and various bacterial and viral infections. Regular preventative measures are crucial.

Q4: How can I improve the fleece quality of my sheep? Good nutrition, parasite control, and appropriate breeding practices significantly influence fleece quality. Careful selection of breeding rams with superior fleece traits is also essential.

Q5: Where can I find reputable breeders of excellent sheep? Contact your local agricultural extension office, breed associations, or attend livestock shows and sales to connect with reputable breeders.

excellent sheep: Excellent Sheep William Deresiewicz, 2014-08-19 A groundbreaking manifesto about what our nation's top schools should be—but aren't—providing: "The ex-Yale professor effectively skewers elite colleges, their brainy but soulless students (those 'sheep'), pushy parents, and admissions mayhem" (People). As a professor at Yale, William Deresiewicz saw something that troubled him deeply. His students, some of the nation's brightest minds, were adrift when it came to the big questions: how to think critically and creatively and how to find a sense of purpose. Now he argues that elite colleges are turning out conformists without a compass. *Excellent Sheep* takes a sharp look at the high-pressure conveyor belt that begins with parents and counselors who demand perfect grades and culminates in the skewed applications Deresiewicz saw firsthand as a member of Yale's admissions committee. As schools shift focus from the humanities to "practical" subjects like economics, students are losing the ability to think independently. It is essential, says Deresiewicz, that college be a time for self-discovery when students can establish their own values and measures of success in order to forge their own paths. He features quotes from real students and graduates he has corresponded with over the years, candidly exposing where the system is broken and offering clear solutions on how to fix it. "Excellent Sheep is likely to make...a lasting mark....He takes aim at just about the entirety of upper-middle-class life in America....Mr. Deresiewicz's book is packed full of what he wants more of in American life: passionate weirdness" (The New York Times).

excellent sheep: Excellent Sheep William Deresiewicz, 2014 A groundbreaking manifesto for people searching for the kind of insight on leading, thinking, and living that elite schools should be—but aren't—providing--

excellent sheep: The Death of the Artist William Deresiewicz, 2020-07-28 A deeply researched warning about how the digital economy threatens artists' lives and work—the music, writing, and visual art that sustain our souls and societies—from an award-winning essayist and critic There are two stories you hear about earning a living as an artist in the digital age. One comes from Silicon Valley. There's never been a better time to be an artist, it goes. If you've got a laptop, you've got a recording studio. If you've got an iPhone, you've got a movie camera. And if production is cheap, distribution is free: it's called the Internet. Everyone's an artist; just tap your creativity and put your stuff out there. The other comes from artists themselves. Sure, it goes, you can put your stuff out there, but who's going to pay you for it? Everyone is not an artist. Making art takes years of dedication, and that requires a means of support. If things don't change, a lot of art will cease to be sustainable. So which account is true? Since people are still making a living as artists today, how are they managing to do it? William Deresiewicz, a leading critic of the arts and of contemporary culture, set out to answer those questions. Based on interviews with artists of all kinds, *The Death of the Artist* argues that we are in the midst of an epochal transformation. If artists were artisans in the

Renaissance, bohemians in the nineteenth century, and professionals in the twentieth, a new paradigm is emerging in the digital age, one that is changing our fundamental ideas about the nature of art and the role of the artist in society.

excellent sheep: A Jane Austen Education William Deresiewicz, 2011-04-28 An eloquent memoir of a young man's life transformed by literature. In *A Jane Austen Education*, Austen scholar William Deresiewicz turns to the author's novels to reveal the remarkable life lessons hidden within. With humor and candor, Deresiewicz employs his own experiences to demonstrate the enduring power of Austen's teachings. Progressing from his days as an immature student to a happily married man, Deresiewicz's *A Jane Austen Education* is the story of one man's discovery of the world outside himself. A self-styled intellectual rebel dedicated to writers such as James Joyce and Joseph Conrad, Deresiewicz never thought Austen's novels would have anything to offer him. But when he was assigned to read *Emma* as a graduate student at Columbia, something extraordinary happened. Austen's devotion to the everyday, and her belief in the value of ordinary lives, ignited something in Deresiewicz. He began viewing the world through Austen's eyes and treating those around him as generously as Austen treated her characters. Along the way, Deresiewicz was amazed to discover that the people in his life developed the depth and richness of literary characters—that his own life had suddenly acquired all the fascination of a novel. His real education had finally begun. Weaving his own story—and Austen's—around the ones her novels tell, Deresiewicz shows how her books are both about education and themselves an education. Her heroines learn about friendship and feeling, staying young and being good, and, of course, love. As they grow up, they learn lessons that are imparted to Austen's reader, who learns and grows by their sides. *A Jane Austen Education* is a testament to the transformative power of literature, a celebration of Austen's mastery, and a joy to read. Whether for a newcomer to Austen or a lifelong devotee, Deresiewicz brings fresh insights to the novelist and her beloved works. Ultimately, Austen's world becomes indelibly entwined with our own, showing the relevance of her message and the triumph of her vision.

excellent sheep: **Baa Baa Black Sheep** Gregory Boyington, 2013-08-07 Here, in his own words, is the true story of America's wildest flying hero, of his extraordinary heroism, and of his greatest battle of all—the fight to survive. The World War II air war in the Pacific needed tough men like Colonel Pappy Boyington and his Black Sheep Squadron. The legendary Marine Corps officer and his bunch of misfits, outcasts, and daredevils gave new definition to “hell-raising”—on the ground and in the skies. Pappy himself was a living legend—he personally shot down twenty-eight Japanese planes, and won the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross. He broke every rule in the book doing so, but when he fell into the hands of the vengeful Japanese his real ordeal began.

excellent sheep: *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country* Marsha Weisiger, 2011-11-15 *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country* offers a fresh interpretation of the history of Navajo (Diné) pastoralism. The dramatic reduction of livestock on the Navajo Reservation in the 1930s -- when hundreds of thousands of sheep, goats, and horses were killed -- was an ambitious attempt by the federal government to eliminate overgrazing on an arid landscape and to better the lives of the people who lived there. Instead, the policy was a disaster, resulting in the loss of livelihood for Navajos -- especially women, the primary owners and tenders of the animals -- without significant improvement of the grazing lands. Livestock on the reservation increased exponentially after the late 1860s as more and more people and animals, hemmed in on all sides by Anglo and Hispanic ranchers, tried to feed themselves on an increasingly barren landscape. At the beginning of the twentieth century, grazing lands were showing signs of distress. As soil conditions worsened, weeds unpalatable for livestock pushed out nutritious native grasses, until by the 1930s federal officials believed conditions had reached a critical point. Well-intentioned New Dealers made serious errors in anticipating the human and environmental consequences of removing or killing tens of thousands of animals. Environmental historian Marsha Weisiger examines the factors that led to the poor condition of the range and explains how the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Navajos, and climate change contributed to it. Using archival sources and oral accounts, she describes the importance of land and stock animals

in Navajo culture. By positioning women at the center of the story, she demonstrates the place they hold as significant actors in Native American and environmental history. *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country* is a compelling and important story that looks at the people and conditions that contributed to a botched policy whose legacy is still felt by the Navajos and their lands today.

excellent sheep: *Beautiful Sheep* Kathryn Dun, 2020-03-03 This stunning collection of portraits shows sheep as you've never seen them before. Featuring commissioned studio photography of champion breeds styled to perfection prior to competition, the animals showcased here are works of ovine art. Beautiful color portraits of 42 different breeds from around the globe are accompanied by graphic charts containing all the essential breed information. There's also a potted history of sheep, plus reportage photography of the behind-the-scenes primping and preening at the agricultural shows, to document the care lavished on prizewinning sheep as well as the nail-biting judging process. Whether you regard it as a photographic exposition, an amusing objet d'art, or a shepherd's delight packed with visual and textual breed information, this is a unique giftbook destined to adorn coffee tables around the globe.

excellent sheep: *The Sheep Book* Ronald B. Parker, 2001 The Sheep Book offers a template for both the beginner and the old hand. Mixing theoretical, technical and practical, Parker offers a buffet of tips for any sheep producer. --Joel Salatin, author of *You Can Farm*

excellent sheep: *How to Raise Sheep* Philip Hasheider, 2009-04-15 A guide to raising sheep that covers production systems, breeds, housing, facilities, fences, enclosures, feeding, pasture management, predators, marketing meat and wool, environmental stewardship, and other related topics.

excellent sheep: Why They Can't Write John Warner, 2020-03-17 An important challenge to what currently masquerades as conventional wisdom regarding the teaching of writing. There seems to be widespread agreement that—when it comes to the writing skills of college students—we are in the midst of a crisis. In *Why They Can't Write*, John Warner, who taught writing at the college level for two decades, argues that the problem isn't caused by a lack of rigor, or smartphones, or some generational character defect. Instead, he asserts, we're teaching writing wrong. Warner blames this on decades of educational reform rooted in standardization, assessments, and accountability. We have done no more, Warner argues, than conditioned students to perform writing-related simulations, which pass temporary muster but do little to help students develop their writing abilities. This style of teaching has made students passive and disengaged. Worse yet, it hasn't prepared them for writing in the college classroom. Rather than making choices and thinking critically, as writers must, undergraduates simply follow the rules—such as the five-paragraph essay—designed to help them pass these high-stakes assessments. In *Why They Can't Write*, Warner has crafted both a diagnosis for what ails us and a blueprint for fixing a broken system. Combining current knowledge of what works in teaching and learning with the most enduring philosophies of classical education, this book challenges readers to develop the skills, attitudes, knowledge, and habits of mind of strong writers.

excellent sheep: The Bighorn Sheep Joanne Mattern, 1999-09 Describes the physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle of the bighorn sheep. Includes photo diagram.

excellent sheep: Sheep Out to Eat Nancy E. Shaw, 1992 Five hungry sheep discover that a tea shop may not be the best place for them to eat.

excellent sheep: Know Your Sheep Jack Byard, 2008-08-31 For each breed he dedicates two pages, the left being a full page high-quality picture and the right giving a brief but comprehensive description of the appearance, history and uses of each sheep. Only the size of a postcard, the book fits perfectly into a rucksack or pocket so is ideal for the interested rambler who is keen to discover more about the flock fleeing from him at the time. Clear color photographs taken of sheep 'straight from the field' illustrate the immense diversity within this species.

excellent sheep: A Wild Sheep Chase Haruki Murakami, 2010-09-01 A New York Times bestselling author—and “a mythmaker for the millennium, a wiseacre wiseman” (New York Times Book Review)—delivers a surreal and elaborate quest that takes readers from Tokyo to the remote

mountains of northern Japan, where the unnamed protagonist has a surprising confrontation with his demons. An advertising executive receives a postcard from a friend and casually appropriates the image for an advertisement. What he doesn't realize is that included in the scene is a mutant sheep with a star on its back, and in using this photo he has unwittingly captured the attention of a man who offers a menacing ultimatum: find the sheep or face dire consequences.

excellent sheep: *Sheep* Archer B. Gilfillan, 1993 Archer B. Gilfillan was an anomaly. An Ivy League scholar with a broad knowledge of classical literature and a talent for writing, he nonetheless chose to herd sheep from 1916 to 1934 in a lonely, isolated part of the West. Out of this strange juxtaposition of expertise and experience, Gilfillan produced this classic narrative of American sheepherding. First published in 1929, *Sheep: Life on the South Dakota Range* provides a personal, informative, and entertaining account of the western shepherd. From blizzards to predatory wolves, from grass-crazed sheep in the springtime to penny-pinching bosses, Gilfillan misses nothing. He also volunteers his trenchant opinions on modern women, cowboys, and homesteaders--many of whom were his neighbors. In his introduction, Richard W. Etulain, director of the Center for the American West at the University of New Mexico, describes Gilfillan's life and discusses the appeal of the wide-open West to an urban-industrial nation.

excellent sheep: In Defense of a Liberal Education Fareed Zakaria, 2015-03-30 CNN host and best-selling author Fareed Zakaria argues for a renewed commitment to the world's most valuable educational tradition. The liberal arts are under attack. The governors of Florida, Texas, and North Carolina have all pledged that they will not spend taxpayer money subsidizing the liberal arts, and they seem to have an unlikely ally in President Obama. While at a General Electric plant in early 2014, Obama remarked, I promise you, folks can make a lot more, potentially, with skilled manufacturing or the trades than they might with an art history degree. These messages are hitting home: majors like English and history, once very popular and highly respected, are in steep decline. I get it, writes Fareed Zakaria, recalling the atmosphere in India where he grew up, which was even more obsessed with getting a skills-based education. However, the CNN host and best-selling author explains why this widely held view is mistaken and shortsighted. Zakaria eloquently expounds on the virtues of a liberal arts education—how to write clearly, how to express yourself convincingly, and how to think analytically. He turns our leaders' vocational argument on its head. American routine manufacturing jobs continue to get automated or outsourced, and specific vocational knowledge is often outdated within a few years. Engineering is a great profession, but key value-added skills you will also need are creativity, lateral thinking, design, communication, storytelling, and, more than anything, the ability to continually learn and enjoy learning—precisely the gifts of a liberal education. Zakaria argues that technology is transforming education, opening up access to the best courses and classes in a vast variety of subjects for millions around the world. We are at the dawn of the greatest expansion of the idea of a liberal education in human history.

excellent sheep: *One Smart Sheep* Gary D. Schmidt, Elizabeth Stickney, 2021-10-26 It takes one smart sheep to escape from a piano movers' van and find his way home in this humorous friendship story for emerging and newly independent readers by beloved, award-winning author Gary D. Schmidt and coauthor Elizabeth Stickney. Wilson is a curious sheep, and after he foolishly climbs into the back of a piano movers' truck, he ends up alone in the big city, far from the farm. But Wilson is also one smart sheep, and soon enough he's finding his way home to his worried owner by recognizing the sounds that he heard while he was trapped in the truck--a jackhammer, a calliope, a hotdog man. And could that be the excited barking of his friend Tippy, the border collie? This lighthearted story about loyalty, problem solving, friendship, and independence is divided into short, action-packed chapters and has the cozy feel of a modern classic.

excellent sheep: The Sheep Queen Thomas Savage, 2009-08-01 An epic family saga set on the sprawling, beautiful ranches of the American West, from the author of *The Power of the Dog*, a masterful novelist working at the peak of his form (Washington Post). A Western family story at once intimate and epic, this rich, compelling, emotionally charged novel tells the story of the Sweringen family of Idaho: Emma, the matriarch, known as the Sheep Queen (surely one of the most fascinating

characters in current fiction —Publishers Weekly); the daughter who disappoints her; the grandson who adores her; and the granddaughter, given up for adoption, who spends nearly half her life finding her way back to her family. The Sheep Queen is marvelous...Her reign has a mythic grandeur. —New York Times Book Review A fine novel...A sense of family as anchor and root and self-definition [gives] the book its considerable strength...Savage is a writer of the first order, and he possesses in abundance the novelist's highest art — the ability to illuminate and move. —The New Yorker

excellent sheep: Permanent Crisis Paul Reitter, Chad Wellmon, 2023-04-05 Leads scholars and anyone who cares about the humanities into more effectively analyzing the fate of the humanities and digging into the very idea of the humanities as a way to find meaning and coherence in the world. The humanities, considered by many as irrelevant for modern careers and hopelessly devoid of funding, seem to be in a perpetual state of crisis, at the mercy of modernizing and technological forces that are driving universities towards academic pursuits that pull in grant money and direct students to lucrative careers. But as Paul Reitter and Chad Wellmon show, this crisis isn't new—in fact, it's as old as the humanities themselves. Today's humanities scholars experience and react to basic pressures in ways that are strikingly similar to their nineteenth-century German counterparts. The humanities came into their own as scholars framed their work as a unique resource for resolving crises of meaning and value that threatened other cultural or social goods. The self-understanding of the modern humanities didn't merely take shape in response to a perceived crisis; it also made crisis a core part of its project. Through this critical, historical perspective, *Permanent Crisis* can take scholars and anyone who cares about the humanities beyond the usual scolding, exhorting, and hand-wringing into clearer, more effective thinking about the fate of the humanities. Building on ideas from Max Weber and Friedrich Nietzsche to Helen Small and Danielle Allen, Reitter and Wellmon dig into the very idea of the humanities as a way to find meaning and coherence in the world. ,

excellent sheep: Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep, 5th Edition Paula Simmons, Carol Ekarius, 2019-06-25 Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep is the best-selling, most trusted reference for farmers and backyard homesteaders with any size flock. The 5th edition is now updated to include full-color illustrations and photographs throughout, including a gallery of the best breed choices for both meat and fiber. With their small size and gentle dispositions, sheep are one of the easier livestock species to raise and offer varied marketing opportunities, including meat, wool, and milk. Detailed instructions and graphics lead readers through every essential procedure, including shearing, building a lambing shed, breeding and lambing, butchering, and marketing.

excellent sheep: Where Are All Our Sheep? Boris Petric, 2015-09-01 After the collapse of the USSR, Kyrgyzstan chose a path of economic and political liberalization. Only a few years later, however, the country ceased producing anything of worth and developed a dependence on the outside world, particularly on international aid. Its principal industry, sheep breeding, was decimated by reforms suggested by international institutions providing assistance. Virtually annihilated by privatization of the economy and deserted by Moscow, the Kyrgyz have turned this economic "opening up" into a subtle strategy to capture all manner of resources from abroad. In this study, the author describes the encounters, sometimes comical and tinged with incomprehension, between the local population and the well-meaning foreigners who came to reform them.

excellent sheep: They Smell Like Sheep Dr. Lynn Anderson, 2009-11-24 Exploring the biblical models of shepherding, mentoring, and equipping, *They Smell Like Sheep* unlocks the secrets of leadership for anyone. What kind of leadership will effectively lead the church into the morally turbulent twenty-first century? The same kind of leadership that led it through the morally and politically chaotic first century. Shepherding. This is the kind of leadership Jesus used, and this is the kind of leadership that will take his church where he wants it to go. While the term shepherd produces warm images of love, care, and tenderness, it also describes a form of leadership that is perilously protective, dangerous, dirty, and smelly. Shepherd is something that every follower of Christ, the Good Shepherd, is called to become. Lynn Anderson, in this important book, leads us

backwards in time to discover and identify the biblical leader for the future needs of the Christian community. Anderson's deep dig for truth will concern, convict, and confront us about where leadership has been, and will set a new standard for where the future leader must go.

excellent sheep: The Trouble with Goats and Sheep Joanna Cannon, 2017-06-20 Part coming-of-age story, part mystery, *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep* is a quirky and utterly charming debut about a community in need of absolution and two girls learning what it means to belong.

excellent sheep: Merino Sheep Rosaura Esquivel, 2017-12-15 The excellent quality of merino wool has made it a useful resource since the 12th century. Originally from Spain, merino sheep now live on farms across the world, bred for their highly sought-after wool. In this dynamic study of life science in action, readers will study the species of merino sheep, how their fiber is collected and processed, and the historic uses of merino wool. Eye-catching photographs enrich the book's stimulating content.

excellent sheep: The Veterinary Book for Sheep Farmers David C. Henderson, 1990 A wide-ranging manual on sheep diseases which offers to increase productivity and profitability by improving the standard of husbandry and upgrading the health status of the flock. The book stresses the understanding of the causes and development of disease so that a full prevention programme can be planned. A major section describes the latest techniques for fertility control.

excellent sheep: The Dogs of Bedlam Farm Jon Katz, 2005-09-13 "Dogs are blameless, devoid of calculation, neither blessed nor cursed with human motives. They can't really be held responsible for what they do. But we can." -from *The Dogs of Bedlam Farm* When Jon Katz adopted a border collie named Orson, his whole world changed. Gone were the two yellow Labs he wrote about in *A Dog Year*, as was the mountaintop cabin they loved. Katz moved into an old farmhouse on forty-two acres of pasture and woods with a menagerie: a ram named Nesbitt, fifteen ewes, a lonely donkey named Carol, a baby donkey named Fanny, and three border collies. Training Orson was a demanding project. But a perceptive dog trainer and friend told Katz: "If you want to have a better dog, you will just have to be a better goddamned human." It was a lesson Katz took to heart. He now sees his dogs as a reflection of his willingness to improve, as well as a critical reminder of his shortcomings. Katz shows us that dogs are often what we make them: They may have their own traits and personalities, but in the end, they are mirrors of our own lives—living, breathing testaments to our strengths and frustrations, our families and our pasts. *The Dogs of Bedlam Farm* recounts a harrowing winter Katz spent on a remote, windswept hillside in upstate New York with a few life-saving friends, ugly ghosts from the past, and more livestock than any novice should attempt to manage. Heartwarming, and full of drama, insight, and hard-won wisdom, it is the story of his several dogs forced Katz to confront his sense of humanity, and how he learned the places a dog could lead him and the ways a doge could change him.

excellent sheep: The Spinner's Book of Fleece Beth Smith, 2014-08-23 The characteristics of fleece — its structure, grease content, and fiber diameter — vary widely depending on the breed of sheep the fleece comes from. In this comprehensive guide, Beth Smith profiles 21 types of fleece, from bouncy and pliant to lacy and lightweight. A sheep-by-sheep reference describes the best way to wash and spin each fleece into rich, soft yarn. You'll soon be confidently choosing the right fleece, spinning it to perfection, and enjoying the perfect yarn for your next fiber creation.

excellent sheep: Feed My Sheep R. Albert Mohler (Jr.), 2008 In *Feed My Sheep*, an outstanding team of pastors and scholars says to the modern church: Turn back! This book reveals the biblical basis for preaching, sketches the way it ought to be practiced, and shows the many practical benefits that flow from strong pulpits.

excellent sheep: 99 Bottles André Hueston Mack, 2019-10-29 A highly opinionated, vibrantly illustrated wine guide from one of the country's most celebrated—and unorthodox—sommeliers and winemakers. In this entertaining, informative, and thoroughly unconventional wine guide, award-winning sommelier, winemaker, and wine educator Andre Mack presents readers with the 99 bottles that have most impacted his life. Instead of just pairing wines with foods, Mack pairs

practical information with personal stories, offering up recommendations alongside reflections on being one of the only African-Americans to ever work at the top level of the American wine industry. Mack's 99 bottles range from highly accessible commercial wines to the most rarefied Bordeaux on the wine list at The French Laundry, and each bottle offers readers something to learn about wine. This window into Mack's life combines a maverick's perspective on the wine industry with an insider's advice on navigating wine lists, purchasing wine, and drinking more diverse and interesting selections at home. 99 Bottles is a one-of-a-kind exploration of wine culture today from a true trailblazer.

excellent sheep: *Breathe Deep, Little Sheep* Jessica Lee, 2021-03-02 Self-Care for Kids A kid-friendly introduction to self-soothing and mindfulness with adorable animal friends. A child's "very first step" into mindfulness where the story's short rhymes can be used as soothing mantras, paired with delightful illustrations of baby animals working through anxious situations. This book does double duty as a self-help story providing great comfort beyond the pages.

excellent sheep: *Heart of a Shepherd* Rosanne Parry, 2009-01-27 From acclaimed author of *A Wolf Called Wander*, Rosanne Parry welcomes readers into the Heartland in this tender coming-of-age story. When Brother's dad is shipped off to Iraq, along with the rest of his reserve unit, Brother must help his grandparents keep the ranch going. He's determined to maintain it just as his father left it, in the hope that doing so will ensure his father's safe return. The hardships Brother faces will not only change the ranch, but also reveal his true calling.

excellent sheep: *Why Greatness Cannot Be Planned* Kenneth O. Stanley, Joel Lehman, 2015-05-05 Why does modern life revolve around objectives? From how science is funded, to improving how children are educated -- and nearly everything in-between -- our society has become obsessed with a seductive illusion: that greatness results from doggedly measuring improvement in the relentless pursuit of an ambitious goal. In *Why Greatness Cannot Be Planned*, Stanley and Lehman begin with a surprising scientific discovery in artificial intelligence that leads ultimately to the conclusion that the objective obsession has gone too far. They make the case that great achievement can't be bottled up into mechanical metrics; that innovation is not driven by narrowly focused heroic effort; and that we would be wiser (and the outcomes better) if instead we whole-heartedly embraced serendipitous discovery and playful creativity. Controversial at its heart, yet refreshingly provocative, this book challenges readers to consider life without a destination and discovery without a compass.

excellent sheep: *Pete the Sheep* Bruce Whatley, Jackie French, 2013-02-01 There's no cutting corners on this durable edition featuring Pete and other favourite friends at Sean's Sheep Salon. the award-winning team behind *Diary of a Wombat* have joined forces again to create another highly amusing picture book. Sean is a shearer and instead of a sheepdog to help him, he's got a sheep sheep - Pete. After being rejected by the other shearers and their dogs, Sean and Pete set up a sheep salon in town. Sheep from everywhere arrive to have their wool shorn in the latest style and even the shearers' dogs end up arriving for a cut in order to look gorgeous. Jackie and Bruce have created the perfect combination of words and illustrations in this irreverent look at the world of sheep shearing. Ages 4-9

excellent sheep: *Stairway to College Heaven* Victoria Tillson Evans, Jonathan Perkins, Phil Sung, 2018-04-19 The college planning and application process is not an impenetrable mystery. The sooner you understand how it works, the sooner you can empower your child to make informed college decisions. Stop procrastinating! This book tells the story of Michelle, a determined mom who will stop at nothing to ensure that her son, Jack, has plenty of choices for college. When Jack announces he needs to start thinking about college, Michelle panics -- but only for a moment. *Stairway to College Heaven* traces Michelle's journey from confusion to confidence. Led by three enthusiastic, nacho-loving guides, Michelle discovers the obstacles that lurk ahead and finds the strategies to overcome them. Victoria Tillson Evans, Jonathan Perkins, and Phil Sung, have teamed up to bring you a wealth of practical advice about your family's college journey. Victoria earned her BA from Johns Hopkins University and her AM and PhD from Harvard University; she runs

Distinctive College Consulting in Bethesda, Maryland. Jon earned his BA from Stanford University and his JD from Harvard Law School; he offers college counseling services through Essaywise in Palos Verdes Estates, California. Phil earned his BA from Stanford; he provides college counseling and ACT/SAT test prep services through Essaywise in Palo Alto, California. The Stairway to College Heaven awaits. Are you ready to take the first step?

excellent sheep: One Sheep, Blue Sheep Thom Wiley, 2012 Five sheep are blue, green, yellow, purple, and red!

excellent sheep: *Baa Baa Smart Sheep* Mark Sommerset, Rowan Sommerset, 2012-03-28

excellent sheep: *Louis I, King of the Sheep* Olivier Tallec, 2015 Louis I, King of the Sheep is a funny philosophical fable about a sheep who finds a crown, and revels in dreams of power.

excellent sheep: Black Sheep Brant Menswar, 2020-09-29 A black sheep's wool cannot be dyed. A black sheep is 100 percent, authentically original. It cannot be influenced, changed or molded into something it isn't by outside forces. In this powerful new book, author Brant Menswar shows you how to unleash your own black sheep--the five core values that make you who you are--to empower your life. As a motivational speaker, podcast host and founder and CEO of Rock Star Impact, Brant Menswar has inspired thousands of people to tap into their full potential for success by aligning with their black sheep values. Now, in this high-octane, entertaining how-to guide, he delivers one-of-a-kind wisdom for living the amazing life you were always meant to. You will find out how to identify the non-negotiables that are at your core, to live with deliberate intention and practically manifest what matters to you most. You will discover what makes you an extraordinary original and how being uniquely yourself is a power you can set free for success, every day.

excellent sheep: This Golden Fleece Esther Rutter, 2020-06 A history of Britain's long love affair with wool, told through a year of knitting garments from around the British Isles.

excellent sheep: Treat Everyone Like a Dog Karen B. London, 2020-10-20

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