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ENG 100

Assignment #2: Research Paper

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Education Beyond High School

Everyone needs education in life but when it comes to the point where you finally graduate high school, what happens next? Do you work your whole life doing odd jobs or do you go into debt right away by going to college? The average annual cost of college tuition: $17,000 and the average student loan debt: $22,00 (Associated Press, 2011). We as students come out of school not yet knowing much about money issues and getting thrown into debt right out of high school. Recent changes to the interest rates in college loan programs make headlines, and economists predict continued increases in tuition as the federal and state governments contribute less to the cost of higher education (Modern Language Assoc.). Financial Aid is very helpful when it comes to debt, but it only goes so far. Why should the government have contributions rise when they can just eliminate the expensive altogether? Seven out of ten college students feel stressed about their personal finances, according to a new national survey (Ohio State News). Nearly 60 percent said they worry about having enough money to pay for school, while half are concerned about paying their monthly expenses (Ohio State News). We can all agree that money causes stress because of multiple situations. America should have free undergraduate college because more adults can further their education for more career options and it would alleviate the preventions of social mobility.

American should have free undergraduate college because more adults could further their education for more career options. An undergraduate degree is one that takes place after your post-secondary education (high school) and includes 2-year Associate degrees and 4-year bachelor’s degrees. Most if not all jobs ask for at least an associate degree but for some this is very a difficult situation because of financial problems. It’s more beneficial to have more educated people at work but in the same breath if you can’t afford the education how can you get the job? The answer is simple, Free College. Sad part is nothing of worth in America is free to say the least. Education should not just be for the wealthy, it should be for everyone as equals teaching and providing same materials for individuals. In 2012, 39.4 %of Americans between 25 and 64 had at least a two-year college degree (Mason, 2014). The reason behind this low statistic, 39.4 %, is that people simply cannot afford it like they used to and it is a shame that the number hasn’t gone up. I have spoken to many people about this topic and each person has attempted going into college whether it be community or a state university and they all have had to take one or two “gap years” to stay on track with bills. A gap year, personally defined as a year you take off of school to focus on money issues such as overdue bills, school, and regular bills. Some people would disagree with what I am stating here because ‘they had to pay’ back when college tuition was on average $7,602 in 1990-91 (Statistic Brain Research Institute, 2017). We are in a new day of age and our society needs to grow rather than staying uneducated because money isn’t worth as much as it would long ago. College has risen about $1,000 a year. It is $23,600 as of 2015 and is projected to be $102,900 in 2029 (Statistic Brain Research Institute, 2017). Therefore, we should all agree that this would be extremely beneficial to most if not all adults trying to get a better career and wanting to further their education.

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It’s 2018 and Americans are more burdened by student loan debt more than ever. In fact, the average student loan debt for Class of 2017 graduates was $39,400\*, up 6% from the previous year (Kantrowitz, 2018). 44.2 million Americans with student loan debt (Kantrowitz, 2018) why hasn’t anything been done to help fix this problem in the United States. The banks own us at this point, they are the only one profiting off of us continuously paying interest on our beautiful school loans all because we needed that piece of paper to achieve upward social mobility. Is there a reason one person should profit off another's’ burden, this is basically modern-day slavery; we are all working to the bone trying to get a dollar and for what you may ask, for the government. There is no doubt that people struggle with money every day but something that everyone needs is different education to because a more improved society in fixing multiple problems here in the U.S. Therefore. we should end the battle America, we need free education especially undergraduate college and we need it now. It is not ethically fair to put one into debt before starting a financial background and stability. Some Americans do not believe that free undergraduate college is a necessity and that high school prepares you to go out into the “real world”. This is a false statement. Working every day, mindlessly, will not help you succeed and have full social mobility. Social mobility as defined by Dictionary is the ability of individuals or groups to move upward or downward based on wealth, status, occupation, education, or some other social variable. Without higher education it would not be possible to get a well-paid occupation that can help meet your needs. As a growing nation we must be well educated to uphold society needs. In the documentary, Where to Invade Next, Michael Moore explains that Americans have been trying to get around pay for higher education by going overseas for free education (Moore, 2016). Why not just have free undergraduate college in America?

America should have free undergraduate college because more adults can further their education for more career options and it would alleviate the preventions of social mobility. This would drastically change our nation but for the better. We need to break the cycle now, not needing education is out of the picture. Nevertheless, we must all remember that without higher education we wouldn’t have been able to be where we are as a country to this day.