

AP Economics 2018-2019 Fall Semester
Essay #1: Marginal Cost v Benefit of College
Mr. Mace
Due: 5 Oct 18 Full Credit

Framework(Context): Is going to college worth it? As college gets more expensive every year, and with wages being stagnant, is it worth it to go to college? Will college loans bury you? What kind of job can you get with a degree and without a degree? Does college work equally well for everyone who goes? Are all colleges going to give good degrees? Why are certain colleges 'better' than others? Is this the right course for you? What would you advise others?

Main Question: Are the marginal benefits of college worth the marginal costs? Explain your answer with respect to yourself, to others, and to society.

Sample Outline:

1. Essay Opening: Marginal Costs v Benefits of College
 - a. Opening paragraph (Anecdote, Quote, Poem, Data, something to get the reader's attention)
 - b. Thesis (Remember to underline thesis)
2. Main Body
 - a. Why get an education?
 - i. Potential jobs and benefits of college education
 - ii. Lifetime earnings
 - iii. Positive benefit to community, nation, world
 - b. Costs v benefits
 - i. Costs
 1. Tuition
 - a. Local
 - b. Out of state
 - c. International
 2. Books and class supplies
 3. Living expenses
 - a. Rent/Dorm
 - b. Food
 - c. Clothing
 - d. Entertainment/going out
 4. Other expenses
 5. Drawbacks of certain degree programs
 - a. Business/economics
 - b. Science/math/engineering
 - c. Social science
 - d. Art/Music/Theater
 - e. Vocational
 6. Student Loans and Borrowing
 - a. How long will you pay?
 - b. How much salary would you need to pay it back?
 - ii. Benefits
 1. Benefits of Degree Programs = jobs/salaries
 - a. Business/economics
 - b. Science/math/engineering
 - c. Social science
 - d. Art/Music/Theater
 - e. Vocational
 2. White collar v Blue collar (Office work v manual labor)

3. Who you know, classmates
 4. Education and social class
 5. Life benefits
 - a. Health
 - b. Intellectual fulfillment?
 - c. Happiness?
 6. Benefit to society
 - a. Social progress
 - b. Technology
 - c. Community engagement
 - d. Dealing with global issues
 - iii. Inequality and Education
 1. Discrimination
 2. Does our education system favor certain groups?
 - a. Wealth?
 - b. Race?
 - c. Religion?
 - d. Gender?
 3. Is there Equality of opportunity in our education system?
 4. Poverty: Is education really a way out of poverty, or just a mirage?
3. Conclusion
- a. Analysis
 - i. Is it better to get a degree, which one?
 - ii. Is it worth it even if you don't get a good job?

1. Make sure to include citations *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research*. Use **APA citation notation** (found on website). Using others work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.
2. Papers should be 10-12 pages in length and approximately 3000-3600 words, in Times New Roman or Ariel 12 point font, double spaced, pages numbered, cover page optional, references on last page (as per APA notation), 1 inch borders on top/bottom and left/right, stapled (no covers or binders). Be sure to include name and period.
3. Underline your Thesis.
4. Please type all work on a computer.