

**Why Go to College?**

*Understanding the Value of Higher Education*

What comes to mind when you think about college? Some students can’t wait for classes to begin, but others may have reservations. Are you excited and looking forward to a new place with new faces? Or do your thoughts sound more like this?

 – I don’t like high school. Why would I want to go to college?

– I don’t know what I want to do with my life, so there’s no point going to school.

 – College is too expensive. There’s no way I can afford it.

 – I don’t need a degree. I can make more money if I get a job right now.

 – No one in my family has ever gone to college so I don’t need to go either.

 – I’m afraid I won’t fit in. Whatever you’re feeling, you’re not alone! The thought of college brings up different feelings for different people. Fear, excitement, anticipation—you name it, someone has experienced it.

**Use the space provided to jot down ideas, thoughts and feelings you have about education after high school or getting a degree.**



**To Go or Not to Go: There (Really!) Is No Question**

**I don’t like high school. Why would I want to go to college?**

So, you don’t like high school. That’s pretty common for a lot of students, but it shouldn’t stop you from considering college. College is so different from high school! You have your choice of campuses, classes, professors and extracurricular activities. You’re not limited by who you were in high school; college is a whole new opportunity to rediscover yourself.

**I don’t know what I want to do with my life, so there’s no point in going to school.**

No career plan? No problem! Most college freshmen haven’t decided on a major, let alone a career. Look at college as an opportunity to explore your likes, dislikes and talents. By taking different types of classes and exploring new activities, you might be surprised by what you learn about yourself.

**College is too expensive. There’s no way I can afford it.**

College can be costly in terms of tuition, books and time, but it’s a smart investment in your future. Very few people get a full ride to college; that’s why there’s financial aid. Financial aid comes in many forms, including grants, scholarships, work-study and student loans. If getting an education is your goal, there are financial aid options to help you along the way.

**I don’t need a degree. I can make more money if I get a job right now.**

Can’t decide between getting a job and getting a degree? Keep in mind that the majority of today’s jobs require some form of degree or certification beyond a high school diploma. Higher education also increases your

chances of making more money and having more job perks when you enter the workforce. If you have to work right out of high school, there are ways to balance both work and school.

**No one in my family has ever gone to college so I don’t need to go either.**

Are you the first in your family to go to college? That can be both scary and exciting, but well worth the effort. Colleges are filled with students just like you and have staff to help you handle challenges unique to first generation college students. Going to college will not only prepare you for a brighter future, but it

can also be a source of pride for you and your family.

**I’m afraid I won’t fit in.**

No two college students are created alike, and no two colleges are identical either. The trick is finding the school

that best fits your unique needs. There are plenty of options to consider, like small versus large schools, public

versus private, rural versus urban, etc. Do some research to find a campus that’s right for you.



**What other concerns might you have about going to college?**

1.

2.

3.