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Is College a Waste of Time?

Many people will agree that college is vital for success; however, college enrollment has decreased by 1.5% since 2012 (Veder and Denhart). College attendance is decreasing because some high school graduates believe that college is not a requirement for success. I agree that the “college bubble will pop” because earning a degree has fewer benefits than before, student debt can be too much to handle, and not all college degrees will guarantee a student’s preparation for the real world.

As stated by Vedder and Denhart, “In 1970, when 11% of adult Americans had bachelor’s degrees or more, degree holders were viewed as the nation’s best and brightest.” Today, degrees are considered as nothing more than a name on paper. The Internet makes information and knowledge more accessible, which decreases the value of a degree. Since anything a person wants to know can be found online with just a click of a button, college degrees are not seen as a requirement anymore.

Even with the addition of financial aid, student debt is soaring. Many high school graduates consider this a reason to not attend college. Even if a college graduate earns a well-paying job, students and families could still struggle with debt for years to come. Some students would prefer not to deal with this burden, so they skip college.

After graduation, one of the decisions a student needs to make is what line of work they would like to enter; however, a well-paying job is not guaranteed with a shiny college degree. For example, a student studying architecture will draw sketches and learn all of the terms necessary to construct a building, but does the student get the chance to actually construct a building, or to be involved in the construction? College cannot guarantee a graduate’s preparation for the harshness of the real world.

Although college has many perks, it is not required. Most high school graduates will skip college because owning a degree has fewer benefits, college is very expensive, and a degree will not prepare them for the real world.

Work Cited

Vedder, Richard, and Christopher Denhart. “Richard Vedder and Christopher Denhart: How the College Bubble Will Pop.” *The Wall Street Journal*, Dow Jones & Company, 8 Jan. 2014, www.wsj.com/articles/richard-vedder-and-christopher-denhart-how-the-college-bubble-will-pop-1389224249.