

**Final Examination
Preparation Sheet
Summer 2011**

The Value of College

As a college student, something you have probably considered is what you will do once you finish college. Some students have very definite ideas about their future plans, while others aren't sure yet what they might do. In the meantime, you will take college courses and have a wide variety of experiences prior to your graduation. Most college students wonder sometimes if college is really worth the time and money. Because this is a very real consideration for most students, **in this paper you will explore the value of college.**

Reading Assignment

"Mother, Son at Odds on Education," Abigail van Buren (Dear Abby)

"Letter by Linda Kaufman," Ann Landers (Dear Ann Landers)

"The Broader Value of College," from *Keys to Success* by John N. Gardner and A. Jerome Jewler (an excerpt)

"Get an Education With That Degree," Daniel Akst

"Value of College Degree Is Growing, Study Says," Tamar Lewin

"The Case Against College: Why Your Child May Not Have to Go to College Right Now—and May Not Have to Go At All," Linda Lee (refers frequently to Bird's article)

"College is a Waste of Time and Money," Caroline Bird (on my web page if you choose to read it)

In essence, there are two ideas in the articles about the value of college; these are considered *Philosophies of the Value of College*.

(1) One view from the articles is that a college education is extremely important because it helps people secure a better financial future and create a more fulfilling life.

(2) Another view from the articles is that a college education is overrated and that it isn't really necessary. Part of this discussion, too, is that colleges don't do a very good job of preparing students for careers and the future.

Your paper will focus on the ideas above. You will develop each point by using article information and interview information. You will complete at least two interviews in class; you will also have the opportunity to brainstorm and take notes as you prepare for the exam. In addition, you will formulate your own Philosophy of the Value of College.

Context

Assume your academic reader is familiar with the general topic of the value of college but hasn't formulated any particular position regarding the value of college. Your reader is seeking information for both positions and is interested in how you formulate your own philosophy about the value of college.

You should give credit to the articles by using the title and author (when noted) as references. You should paraphrase as much as possible and use few direct quotes in the paper. If you do use direct quotes, they should be presented as such (with quotation marks). They should also be integrated into the rest of the text and explained well. Do not plagiarize.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Is the introduction complete? Have I offered a lead-in section (sentence or sentences), some background from the assigned reading, and a clear thesis statement with methodology?
2. For each discussion section, have I followed the assignment requirements? Have I used the articles and my interviews, when applicable, to explain each philosophy about the value of college? Did I give credit to both the articles and the interviewees appropriately? Did I refrain from extensive quoting? Did I paraphrase effectively while giving credit to the articles or interviewees? Did I refrain from plagiarizing?
3. In the conclusion, have I clearly presented my philosophy of the value of college? Is my conclusion logical and complete?
4. Have I closely adhered to the organizational scheme? Is my paper easy to follow both overall and in each part (introduction, discussion sections, conclusion)?
5. Is my control of written language appropriate for a college-level paper? Have I used words correctly? Are my sentences complete?
6. Is the paper complete?

Final Examination: Thursday, July 7, 2011
10:30-12:30
Room 208

Tuesday, July 5: Preparation for the Final Exam.

Wednesday, July 6: No formal class meeting unless needed. Prepare for the Final Exam.

Thursday, July 9: Write the Final Exam.