



The Case against College: Why Everything You Have Been Taught about College is Wrong (Paradox of Progressivism Book 2)

Rosalie Stafford

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FROM CHAPTER ONE

You have heard the mantra “when you go to college” from your parents, from your elementary and middle school and high school teachers, from your middle school and high school counselors. These people — most of whom you like to think wish you well and have your best interests at heart — have told you countless times: “You have go to college to get a good job and succeed in life.”

Unfortunately, these well-meaning people do not know what they are talking about. They are mentally stuck in 1970.

In 1970, only one in ten Americans had a BA (a bachelor’s degree) and, in 1970, a sheepskin (college diploma) was the key to unlock higher earnings.

Now it’s 2012, and the world has changed. Says one 25 year old with an Art degree and \$100,000 in student loans: “I’ve come to the conclusion that it’s an obsolete idea that a college education is like your golden ticket. It’s an idea that an older generation holds on to.”

The fact is, for most students nowadays, a college degree obtained through the use of student loans is nothing more than a one-way ticket to debt-serfdom — unless the degree is in a hot field such as Pharmacology, Geophysics (petroleum industry), or Actuarial Science (statistical analysis). Notice that the degrees which will actually cover the cost of the students loans needed to earn the degrees are heavy in science and math? Degrees in Health Sciences are also in great demand and many do not require BAs, only AAs or two-year vocational certificates. For example, dental hygienists and radiation techs need only a two-year college degree; those jobs pay over \$50,000 per year. Those degrees offer a good ROI (return on investment). Not every degree does: Sociology, Journalism, Communications, Fashion Merchandising, Interior Design, and so on, offer a very poor ROI. Instead, in virtually all cases, the student loans required to obtain those degrees create a heavy load of debt, a one-way ticket to debt-serfdom.

Your parents, your teachers, your counselors who are telling you that you have got to go to college in order to succeed financially are giving you bad advice based on outdated information and herd mentality.

Let’s look at some hard facts, starting with supply and demand.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1—The Big Lie

The mantra

Kid, ya gotta go to college!

2—The reality

Supply & demand

The degree-glut

No need for a college degree

The lawyer glut

No jobs for teachers

Goofy advice from highly-paid career counselors

Unemployment

Entry-level jobs can pay off in the long run

Good careers do not require four-year degrees

Some college dropouts succeed spectacularly

ROI: Return on Investment

3—The big cost of Big Ed

Inflation: consumer items & tuition

How much is tuition today?

4—The student loan swindle

Student loans: big business

How big is a trillion?

Big Ed on FIRE

How did this happen?

Voices of debt-serfs: Brandon

Voices of debt-serfs: Hector

Voices of debt-serfs: Taylor

Voices of debt-serfs: Emily

5—The textbook racket

Textbooks cost a fortune

Cash cows & milking barns

Alternative sources for textbooks

6—The vocational school scam

Screw U

Example: The Art Institute

Diploma-mills

Kaplan

University of Phoenix

ITT Technical Institute

Ashford University

DeVry University

Bottom line

A word to the wise

7—Community College

1,000+ choices

And it's cheap

8—Traditional alternatives

Entry level job

Linda: from entry level to CEO

Military service

Daniel: from UCMC to computer engineer

Apprenticeship

Louis: from apprentice to union electrician

Vocational school

Sheila: from deli-worker to hypnotherapist

9—New alternatives

The price is right

Code Academy

Coursera

Khan Academy

Open Educational Resources

Open Learning Initiative

Udacity

Western Governors University
10—The big cost of remediation
Remedial coursework
Reading is the secret to success
Bringing your math skills up to speed
Do not throw your money away!
11—In conclusion
Knowledge is power
Time is money
America, Land of Opportunity

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