

Free College

Most people recognize college as the pathway to become educated, as well as the route to secure higher salary positions. Many individuals shy away from a college education due to expenses; although a plethora of financial assistance is available to students, a great number of aspiring college students veer entirely from collegiate opportunities. Because of this, various politicians are attempting to make college free. These individuals believe that a free college education may help eliminate poverty. However, some people argue that allowing everyone to receive a college education may devalue the worth of a degree. A bachelor's degree would become the equivalent of a high school diploma, and individuals may need to obtain a Master's degree or higher in order to gain employment in numerous fields. How should we think about conflicts between college and its expense?

Perspective One

A free college education allows every person, regardless of financial status, the opportunity to obtain a college degree. By providing all individuals the same opportunities to a college degree, our society would promote financial independence and education.

Perspective Two

A college education is an honor that should be granted only to students who work for it. If an individual wants free college, he or she needs to work diligently throughout high school to receive scholarships. College should not be free, as doing so would make college a mere extension of high school.

Perspective Three

The right to affordable education should be given to all Americans, regardless of socioeconomic status. Our society should eliminate interest on student loans, and therefore make a college degree attainable for all.

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the conflict of Free College. In your essay, be sure to:

- Analyze and evaluate the perspectives given
- State and develop your own perspective on the issue
- Explain the relationship between your perspective and those given

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of the others, in partial agreement, or wholly different. Whatever the case, support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed, persuasive examples.

Planning Your Essay

Your work on these prewriting pages will not be scored.

Use the space on the back to generate ideas and plan your essay. You may wish to consider the following s you think critically about the task:

Strengths and weaknesses of the three given perspectives

- What insights do they offer, and what do they fail to consider?
- Why might they be persuasive to others, or why might they fail to persuade?

Your own knowledge, experience, and values

- What is your perspective on the issue, and what are its strengths and weaknesses?
- How will you support your perspective in your essay?