Directions: Read each of the paragraphs thoroughly. Using the chart, indicate whether the numbered paragraph is for (+) or against (-) the topic and write the main idea of each paragraph on your chart in one sentence. This becomes your general evidence. Using this evidence, develop a claim with three reasons, and write it on the lines indicated.

**Is a College Education Worth It?**

The American debate over whether a college education is worth it began when the colonists arrived from Europe and founded "New College" (later renamed Harvard University) in 1636. With 20.2 million US college students in 2015 and average student debt at over $28,950, the debate continues today.

People who argue that college is worth it contend that college graduates have higher employment rates, bigger salaries, and more work benefits than high school graduates. They say college graduates also have better interpersonal skills, live longer, have healthier children, and have proven their ability to achieve a major milestone.

People who argue that college is not worth it contend that the debt from college loans is too high and delays graduates from saving for retirement, buying a house, or getting married. They say many successful people never graduated from college and that many jobs, especially trades jobs, do not require college degrees.

Paragraph 1: On average, a college graduate with a bachelor’s degree earned $30,000 more per year than a high school graduate, or about $500,000 more over a lifetime, as of Apr. 2013. [[8](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#8)] Earning an associate's degree (a 2-year degree) was worth about $170,000 more than a high school diploma over a lifetime in 2011. [[9](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#9)] The median income for families headed by a bachelor's degree holder was $100,096 in 2011—more than double than that for a family headed by a high school graduate. [[10](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#10)] The median increase in earnings for completing the freshman year of college was 11% and the senior year was 16% in 2007. [[11](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#11)] 85% of Forbes' 2012 America's 400 Richest People list were college grads. [[12](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#12)]

Paragraph 2: Rita McGrath, PhD, Associate Professor at Columbia Business School, stated "Having a bachelor's used to be more rare and candidates with the degree could therefore be more choosy and were more expensive to hire. Today, that is no longer the case." [[68](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#68)] A high unemployment rate shifts the supply and demand to the employers' favor and has made master’s degrees the "new bachelor's degrees." [[68](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#68)] According to James Altucher, venture capitalist and finance writer, "college graduates hire only college graduates, creating a closed system that permits schools to charge exorbitant prices and forces students to take on crippling debt." [[69](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#69)]

Paragraph 3: Between 2003 and 2012 the number of 25-year-olds with student debt [increased from 25% to 43%](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005437), and their average loan balance was $20,326 in 2012--a 91% increase since 2003. [[35](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#35)] 10% of students graduate with over $40,000 in debt and about 1% have $100,000 in debt. [[36](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#36)] The average student borrower graduated in 2011 with $26,600 in debt. [[36](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#36)] According to the US Congress Joint Economic Committee, approximately 60% of 2011 college graduates have student loan debt balances equal to 60% of their annual income. [[37](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#37)] Missing or being late for loan payments often results in a lower credit score and additional fees, thus escalating the debt problem and potentially jeopardizing future purchases and employment. [[36](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#36)]

Paragraph 4: In Apr. 2013, the unemployment rate for college graduates aged 25 and over with a bachelor's degree was 3.6%, compared to 5.0% for associate's degree holders, 7.5% for high school graduates, and 11.4% for high school drop-outs. [[8](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#8)] In 2015, 6.2% of college graduates were underemployed (insufficient work), compared to 12.9% of high school-only graduates and 18.7% of people without a high school diploma.[[101](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#101)] College graduates are more likely to receive on-the-job formal (22.9%) or informal (17.2%) training, more access to technology, greater autonomy, and ability to enhance skills compared to high school graduates. [[14](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#14)] 58% of college graduates and people with some college or associate's degrees reported being "very satisfied" with their jobs compared to 50% of high school graduates and 40% of people without a high school diploma. [[11](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#11)]

Paragraph 5: 70% of college graduates had access to employer-provided health insurance compared to 50% of high school graduates in 2008. [[15](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#15)] 70% of college graduates 25 years old and older had access to retirement plans in 2008 compared to 65% of associate's degree holders, 55% of high school graduates, and 30% of people who did not complete high school. [[11](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#11)]

Paragraph 6: Over 25% of students who enroll in college do not return for the second year. [[45](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#45)] About 44% of students at four-year colleges dropped out according to a Feb. 2011 study. [[46](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#46)] The federal government allocated $176.83 billion for college loans, grants, tax benefits, and work studies in 2013. [[48](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#48)] State governments spent $81.2 billion supporting public colleges in 2012. [[49](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#49)] Students who started bachelor's degrees in the fall of 2002 but did not graduate within six years accounted for $3.8 billion in lost income, $566 million in lost federal income taxes, and $164 million in lost state income taxes in one year. [[50](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#50)] The government gets fewer tax dollars from non-college graduates than from college graduates who have higher wages. [[50](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#50)] Students who drop out during the first year of college cost states $1.3 billion and the federal government $300 million per year in wasted student grant programs and government appropriations for colleges. [[50](http://college-education.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=005430#50)]

Directions: Using the chart, indicate whether the numbered paragraph is for (+) or against (-) the topic and write the main idea of each paragraph on your chart in one sentence. This becomes your general evidence. Using this evidence, develop a claim with three reasons, and write it on the lines indicated.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Paragraph | + / - | Main Idea |
| 1 | + - |  |
| 2 | + - |  |
| 3 | + - |  |
| 4 | + - |  |
| 5 | + - |  |
| 6 | + - |  |

Your claim (and three reasons):

*Brave New World* Claims and Evidence

**Claim: The author deliberately obscures the product of the hatchery in the first chapter.**

1) How does the author do this?

2) Fill out the following chart

Method 1 of obscuring the product:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Example (quote) | Page # | How does this obscure the product? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Method 2 of obscuring the product:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Example (quote) | Page # | How does this obscure the product? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Method 3 of obscuring the product:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Example (quote) | Page # | How does this obscure the product? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

3) Why does the author obscure the product from the audience?

Write a thesis that incorporates the above claim, the three methods, and the “why”.