

Article Analysis

Student Name

Institutional affiliation

## Article Analysis 1

The article entitled “Is a Degree Still worth It? Yes, Researchers say, and the Payoff Is Getting Better” (Lambert, 2014), illustrates the importance of a degree in the employment sector. The thesis of the paper is that many individuals have the misconception that a college degree is losing value because of the increasing tuition and high rate of student loans; however, scholars illustrate that the value of the degree remains high. Specifically, researchers from the Bank of New York estimate the value of a bachelor’s degree to be \$300 000, and the value has been similar for over a decade. There are several factors that are keeping the value of the degree high, and these include a decrease in the wages of High School graduates and a reduction in college tuition. In short, these factors all illustrate the reasons researchers say a degree is still worth it.

Statement that I disagree with: “The primary reason is that the wages of high-school graduates have been falling, reducing the opportunity costs of going to school and keeping the college wage premium near its all-time high” (Lambert, 2014).

The statement exaggerates the reduction in the amount of high school graduate wages. Furthermore, this is not the only factor that plays a role in the increase in the amount of college graduate salaries. There are numerous factors that individuals must consider before determining the reason for an increase in the value of a college degree and in my opinion; the main one is the value of college tuition. The majority of individuals complain about the high costs of tuition and the lengthy periods necessary to finish paying for loans received for education.

Statement that I agree with: “People are familiar with the story of rising tuition cost and out-of-pocket expenses,” Mr. Deitz said in a phone interview. But people forget that they are also giving up the wages they

could be earning during that time. “Just because you do not see something does not mean it’s not important,” Mr. Deitz said (Lambert, 2014).

Regardless of the fact that the benefits of a college education are not evident immediately, in the long term there are visible. The authors illustrate that these individuals have higher minimum wages, and more job opportunities. Hence, this places them in a position to repay their loans in a shorter period of time, and begin enjoying the benefits of their degree.

Question: The authors state that the economic outlook for college graduates has not improved and it would be more informative if there was a provision of statistical data as an illustration of this statement.

Question: I would like to have further clarification on attaining loan and the procedures for college students in repaying them. It would be beneficial to carry out a study that analyzes the average amount of time that students take to repay their debts in different professions. I would also like a comparison between individuals with different qualifications and their ability to find employment.

Surprising factors: The topic in the article is one that receives a significant amount of attention and I have previously researched the subject. Studies illustrate that there currently individuals require only ten years to repay loans in comparison to the 23 years in 1980. This was interesting as the article states that the value of a college degree has been similar for almost a decade.

- a. No. I have always been in support of a college degree due to its advantages in the largely competitive job market.
- b. The article is useful in determining the important as a guide for high school graduates

The second article is also one that assesses the relevance of a college education. The article is entitled “Is College worth It? Clearly, New Data Say” (Leonhardt, 2014). The author illustrates that college education is relevant, as there is an increase in the pay rate for these individuals. Additionally, he illustrates that the demand for education is increasing with the development of technology and society.

Statement I agree with: The wage gap between people with only a bachelor’s degree and people without such a degree has also kept rising. Tellingly, though, the wage premium for people who have attended college without earning a bachelor’s degree — a group that includes community-college graduates — has not been rising. The big economic returns go to people with four-year degrees (Leonhardt, 2014).

The statement illustrates the reality between individuals with different degrees. It begins by illustrating that there is a general rise in the salary for degree holders; however, individuals that attend college and attain a Bachelors degree are the ones likely to benefit from the experience.

Statement I do not agree with: As the economy becomes more technologically complex, the amount of education that people need will rise. At some point, 15 years or 17 years of education will make more sense as a universal goal (Leonhardt, 2014).

The development of the economy technologically does not equate to longer periods in college. The advancements can be included in the current system and make the learning process easier.

Question: I would like the author to emphasize his reasons for suggesting that technological advancement equates to more years in school.

Question: I would like further information on the statement “To me, the picture is people in almost every kind of job not being able to see their wages grow,” (Leonhardt, 2014).

Surprising factors: The increase in the number of graduate raises the need to provide the appropriate vacancies and salaries for these individuals.

- a. No. I have always been in support of a college degree due to its advantages in the largely competitive job market.
- b. The article is useful in indicating educational decisions for parents and creating their children’s future. It also useful for all High School graduates who are contemplating attending college.

References

Lambert, L. (2014). *Is a Degree Still worth It? Yes, Researchers say, and the Payoff Is Getting Better*. Chronicle of Higher Education.

Leonhardt, D. (2014). *Is College worth It? Clearly, New Data Say*. New York Times