BEST QUOTES ON COLLEGE

Each time someone commented on how I'm always in a good mood or smiling, I felt more and more like a phony. If only they knew that, behind closed doors, I cried and crumbled under unrealistic expectations set not by peers or professors, but by me.

--Deborah Spar

What we become depends on what we read after all the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books.

—Thomas Carlyle

Where you go is not who you'll be.

—Frank Bruni

I am going to tell you a secret. Every year many, many stupid people graduate from college. And if they can do it, so can you.

—John Green

Liberal education is the soul of democracy. At its best, liberal education prepares students to appreciate the difference between making a living and actually living; to cultivate more than a passing familiarity with ethics, history, science, and culture; and to perceive the tragic chasm between the world as it is and the world as it could and ought to be.

--Vartan Gregorian

Natural light passes through murky glass windows in the office doors and sinks into the brown linoleum....The halls are long and wide, and have gloomy brown seriousness, dull grandeur. You hardly ever hear people laughing in them. The air is too heavy with significance. Behind the doors, professors are bent over student papers, writing in the margins, 'B+,' 'A-.'

--Leonard Michaels

There are many thousands of American undergraduates whose economic futures (and those of their parents) would be far brighter if they knocked off some of their general-education requirements online, or at the local community college—for pennies on the dollar—before entering the Weimar Republic of traditional college pricing. But college education, like weddings and funerals, tends to prompt irrational financial decision making.

--Caitlin Flanagan

At least a third of students gain no measurable skills during their four years in college. For the remainder who do, the gains are usually minimal. For many students, college is less about providing an education than a credential—a certificate testifying that they are smart enough to get into college, conformist enough to go, and compliant enough to stay there for four years.

--Richard Arum and
Josipa Roksa

The primary purpose of a liberal education is to make one's mind a pleasant place in which to spend one's leisure.

--Sidney J. Harris

It is a mathematical fact that fifty percent of all doctors graduate in the bottom half of their class.

—Unknown

You are not here merely to prepare to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget this errand.

—Woodrow Wilson

Some people consider universities sacred places, and they might even see professors' freedom to be the fallible sovereigns of their own classrooms as a necessary part of what makes a university special. To these romantics, universities are havens from a world dominated by orthodoxy, money, and quotidian concerns. Professors get to think independently, and students come away molded by the total experience—classes, social life, extracurriculars—that the university provides. We spend the rest of our lives chasing mates, money, and jobs, but at university we enjoy the liberty to indulge aimless curiosity in subjects we know nothing about, for purposes unrelated to efficiency or practicality.

--Graeme Wood

Colleges are hotbeds of experimentation: educational, chemical, sexual and most annoyingly political. After four years of living in this fake world, you are considered prepared to live in the real one, and you graduate. This experience will cost either your parents or you $200,000, unless you are good at throwing an orange ball into a round hoop, in which case it is free.

--*Earth (The Book) A Visitor's Guide to the Human Race*

Financial dysfunction is only the most obvious way in which higher education is troubled. In the past half millennium, the technology of learning has hardly budged. The easiest way to picture what a university looked like 500 years ago is to go to any large university today, walk into a lecture hall and imagine the professor speaking Latin and wearing a monk's cowl. The most common class format is still a professor standing in front of a group of students talking. And even though we've subjected students to lectures for hundreds of years, we have no evidence that they are a good way to teach. (One educational psychologist, Ludy Benjamin, likens lectures to Velveeta cheese—something lots of people consume but no one considers either delicious or nourishing.)

--Graeme Wood

The kids arrive eager to hurl themselves upon the pasta bars and the climbing walls, to splash into the 12-person Jacuzzis and lounge around the outdoor fire pits, all of which have been constructed in a blatant effort to woo them away from competitors. They swipe prepaid cards in dormitory vending machines to acquire whatever tanning wipes or earbuds or condoms or lube or energy drinks the occasion seems to require. And every moment of the experience is sweetened by the general understanding that with each kegger and rager, each lazy afternoon spent snoozing on the quad (a forgotten highlighter slowly drying out on the open pages of *Introduction to Economics*, a Coke Zero sweating beside it), they are actively engaged in the most significant act of self-improvement available to an American young person: college!

--Caitlin Flanagan

It's all about numbers—what it costs and what you can earn. It's all about a financial investment—how much in and how much out, as if value is always about money. But there's value in the discovery of fine art or cinema or literature or… anthropology. This will make you a better citizen, which is nice, and will give you greater control of your life, which is also nice.

--Richard Cohen

Sensing they are not prepared for the world they have entered, many professional women seek still more academic credentials. I've come to think of this as intellectual primping—the frequently futile hope that one more degree will finally win notice, and with it, that perfect job or raise.

--Garance Frake-Ruta

Most college courses are alike: the notes of the professor become the notes of the students without passing through the minds of either.

—Geoff Tibballs

Universities are full of knowledge; the freshmen bring a little in and the seniors take away none at all, and the knowledge accumulates.

--Abbott Lawrence Lowell

I am not impressed by the Ivy League establishments. Of course they graduate the best—it's all they'll take, leaving to others the problem of educating the country. They will give you an education the way the banks will give you money—provided you can prove to their satisfaction that you don't need it.

--Peter De Vries

It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known, but to question it.

--Jacob Bronowski

A university studies politics, but it will not advocate fascism or communism. A university studies military tactics, but it will not promote war. A university studies peace, but it will not organize crusades of pacifism. It will study every question that affects human welfare, but it will not carry a banner in a crusade for anything except freedom of learning.

--Lotus Delta Coffman

The basis of the fraternity system is that not all men are brothers.

—Unknown

About the only thing more expensive than going to college is not going to college.

--Thomas G. Mortenson

A muttonhead, after an education at *West Point*—or *Harvard*—is a muttonhead still.

--Theodore Roosevelt

Compare, anyone who can, the typical undergraduate (if he will sit still long enough to let you compare him) with the little schoolboy that he once was. Whither now has gone that wistful dawning intelligence. The clouds of glory that he trailed are blown by all the winds of the stadium. The child that wrote the verses for verses' sake, that saw visions in the pages of his books and heard in his ears the trampling feet and the armored horses of the past—whither has he vanished?

--Stephen Leacock

The medieval university looked backwards; it professed to be a storehouse of old knowledge....The modern university looks forward, and is a factory of new knowledge.

--T. H. Huxley

If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

--Benjamin Franklin

Professor: one who talks in someone else's sleep.

--W. H. Auden

The aim of the college, for the individual student, is to eliminate the need in his life for the college; the task is to help him become a self-educating man.

--C. Wright Mills

The function of the university is not simply to teach bread-winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a centre of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.

--W. E. B. DuBois

Freedom of inquiry, freedom of discussion, and freedom of teaching—without these a university cannot exist.

--Robert Maynard Hutchins

The university exists only to find and to communicate the truth.

--Robert Maynard Hutchins

A liberal education...frees a man from the prison-house of his class, race, time, place, background, family and even his nation.

--Robert Maynard Hutchins

The purpose of all higher education is to make men aware of what was and what is; to incite them to probe into what may be. It seeks to teach them to understand, to evaluate; to communicate.

--Otto Kleppner

Educational institutions will become, more and more purely, institutions for educating people; and, as they become this, they will cease to be seats of scientific inquiry save on the very lowest level.

--Walter B. Pitkin

The university brings out all abilities including incapability.

--Anton Chekhov

Graduate work is simply a continuation of conforming educational consumerism, terminated by a thesis that is merely a statistical validation of a creative discovery made by an independent scholar from the past.

--Laurence J. Peter

It was like a heart transplant. We tried to implant college in him but his head rejected it.

--Barry Switzer

If all the people who go to sleep in college classes were laid end to end—they would be more comfortable.

--Unknown

A university is a place for 2,000 in the classroom and 50,000 in the stadium.

--*School Activities*

A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.

--Theodore Roosevelt

It is no longer correct to regard higher education solely as a privilege. It is a basic right in today's world.

--Norman Cousins

A university is what a college becomes when the faculty loses interest in students.

--John Ciardi

You can lead a man to the university, but you can't make him think.

--Finley Peter Dunne

Fathers send their sons to college either because they went to college, or because they didn't.

--L. L. Hendren

Take the time to connect—even if you're an introvert. This is an environment where people care about each other and want to see you do well.

—Christine Grenier

One certainly would not for anything have missed one's student days. To mix with other students is an education in itself. It is to come into touch with ideas that are 'living creatures having hands and feet.'

--Robert Lynd

It is not for nothing that the scholar invented the Ph.D. thesis as his principal contribution to literary form. The Ph.D. thesis is the perfect image of his world. It is work done for the sake of doing work—perfectly conscientious, perfectly laborious, perfectly irresponsible.

--Archibald MacLeish

Take away paradox from the thinker and you have the professor.

--Soren Kierkegaard

A 'fraternity' is the antithesis of fraternity. The first (that is, the order of organization) is predicated on the idea of exclusion; the second (that is, the abstract thing) is based on a feeling of total equality.

--E. B. White

Young people at universities study to achieve knowledge and not to learn a trade. We must all learn how to support ourselves, but we must also learn how to live. We need a lot of engineers in the modern world, but we do not want a world of modern engineers.

--Winston Churchill

University education cannot be handed out complete like a cake on a tray. It has to be fought for, intrigued for, conspired for, lied for, and sometimes simply stolen. If it had not, it would scarcely be education.

--Arnold Bennett

I consider it a monstrous presumption that university lecturers should think themselves competent to go on talking year after year to young men, students, while holding themselves aloof from the opportunity of learning from eager youth, which is one of the most valuable things on earth.

--Alfred North Whitehead

The association only with men of one's own class, such as the organization of college life today fosters, is simply fatal to any broad understanding of life. The refusal to make the acquaintance while in college of as many as possible original, self-dependent personalities, regardless of race and social status, is morally suicidal.

—*Atlantic Monthly*, 1911

Culture is an instrument wielded by professors to manufacture professors, who when their turn comes will manufacture professors.

--Simone Weil

If you feel that you have both feet planted on level ground, then the university has failed you.

--Robert Goheen

Colleges are places where pebbles are polished and diamonds are dimmed.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

I find the three major administrative problems on a campus are sex for the students, athletics for the alumni, and parking for the faculty.

--Clark Kerr

Whether four years of strenuous attention to football and fraternities is the best preparation for professional work has never been seriously investigated.

--Robert Maynard Hutchins

I wish that some one would give a course in how to live. It can't be taught in the colleges; that's perfectly obvious, for college professors don't know any better than the rest of us.

--A. Edward Newton

Great individuals, not great organizations, make a college or university great.

--Harold W. Dodds

Perhaps there is something innate that in the first place disposes a man to become a University teacher or specialist. He is, I suspect, more often than not by nature and instinctively afraid of the insecure uproar of things. Visit him in college and you will see that he does not so much live there as lurk.

--H. G. Wells

A college education is one of the few things a person is willing to pay for and not get.

--William Lowe Bryan

The idea that going to college is one of the inherent rights of man seems to have obtained a baseless foothold in the minds of many of our people.

--A. Lawrence Lowell

Meek young men grow up in colleges and believe it is their duty to accept the views which books have given, and grow up slaves.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

College is the only vacation a boy gets between his mother and his wife.

--Unknown

College professors are the persons who get paid with what's left over after the athletic director and football coaches are paid.

--Unknown

Those who go to college and never get out are called professors.

--George Givot

In America a street sweeper can become a college professor—if he's willing to make the financial sacrifice.

--Unknown

Some wit has said that a college professor is little more than a textbook wired for sound.

--Unknown

We'll be in trouble as long as we pay the best professors less than the worst football coach.

--Unknown

Some people have to carry their diplomas with them to prove they have a college education.

--Unknown

It seems that all a college education does is help folks become confused on a higher plane.

--Unknown

It has been said that a college education is nothing but a four-year plan of confusing young minds methodically.

--Unknown

Nowadays you have to pass a tougher exam to get into college than old-timers did to get out.

--Unknown

A college doesn't give you knowledge, it just shows you where it is.

--Unknown

The young man who is able to work his way through college is a pretty good bet to be able to work his way through life.

--Unknown

One nice thing about a college education is that it enables us to worry more intelligently about things all over the world.

--Unknown

He who enters a university walks on hallowed ground.

--James Bryant Conant

Diversity of opinion within the framework of loyalty to our free society is not only basic to a university but to the entire nation.

--James Bryant Conant

Enter to grow in wisdom.
Depart to serve better thy country and mankind.

--Charles William Eliot

Our colleges ought to have lit up in us a lasting relish for the better kind of man, a loss of appetite for mediocrities.

--William James

One of the benefits of a college education is to show the boy it's little avail.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

You can always tell a Harvard man, but you can't tell him much.

--James Barnes

A University is, according to the usual designation, an Alma Mater, knowing her children one by one, not a foundry, or a mint, or a treadmill.

--John Henry Newman

Professor: just a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows.

--Adlai Stevenson

Learned Institutions ought to be favorite objects with every free people. They throw that light over the public mind which is the best security against crafty & dangerous encroachments on the public liberty.

—James Madison

This is the great vice of academicism, that it is concerned with ideas rather than with thinking.

--Lionel Trilling

Some men are graduated from college *cum laude*, some are graduated *summa cum laude*, and some are graduated *mirabile dictu*.

--William Howard Taft

The university is the last remaining platform for national dissent.

--Leon Eisenberg

Universities are the cathedrals of the modern age. They shouldn't have to justify their existence by utilitarian criteria.

--David Lodge

I had heard all kinds of rumors about MIT. They used to say that even the janitors at MIT had master's degrees. At first I wasn't going, but then I couldn't run away from a challenge. I had to compete with the best.

--Ronald McNair

Be kind to your parents. After sending you through college, you're all they have left.

--Unknown

The ideal college consists of a log of wood with an instructor at one end and a student at the other.

--James Abram Garfield

Now owls are not really wise—they only look that way. The owl is a sort of college professor.

--Elbert Hubbard

There's nothing wrong with nailing business people gone bad. But...I am still awaiting the segment of '60 Minutes' in which Mike Wallace marches into a college classroom and confronts the tenured professor with the evidence, garnered by CBS plants taking the course, righteously asking the same question, 'Haven't you been teaching this course from notes that are 20 years out of date?

--Tibor R. Machan

The academic culture is not merely indifferent to teaching, it is actively hostile to it. In the modern large university, no act of good teaching goes unpunished.

--Charles J. Sykes

They strive to hire highly qualified academic specialists, who know their subjects well and do distinguished research. But few of these specialists know how to teach well, and many do not seem to care. The undergraduate education that intending teachers—and everyone else—receives is full of the same bad teaching that litters American high schools.

--*Report of the Holmes Group*

Why God never received university tenure:

1. Because he had only one major publication.
2. And it was in Hebrew.
3. And it had no references.
4. And it wasn't published in a refereed journal.
5. And some even doubt he wrote it himself.
6. The scientific community has had a very rough time trying to repeat his results.

--*Wit and Wisdom*

When a subject becomes totally obsolete, we make it a required course.

--Peter Drucker

Universities are turning out highly skilled barbarians because we don't provide a frame of values to young people who more and more are searching for it.

--Steven Muller

Americans are the only people in the world known to me whose status anxiety prompts them to advertise their college and university affiliations in the rear window of their automobiles.

--Paul Fussell

College is always on the road to somewhere else.

--Tom Robbins

A liberal-arts education is supposed to provide you with a value system, a standard, a set of ideas, not a job.

--Caroline Bird

A college education should equip one to entertain three things: a friend, an idea, and oneself.

--Thomas Ehrlich

A fool's brain digests philosophy into folly, science into superstition, and art into pedantry. Hence University education.

--George Bernard Shaw

Professors must have a theory as a dog must have fleas.

--H. L. Mencken

The owner of the restaurant said to the new employee, 'We'll let you start out by washing dishes.'

'But, hey, I'm a college graduate!'

'You are? In that case, I'll have to show you how.'

--Unknown

If you've never met a student from the University of Chicago, I'll describe him to you. If you give him a glass of water, he says, 'This is a glass of water. But is it a glass of water? And if it is a glass of water, why is it a glass of water?' And eventually he dies of thirst.

--Shelly Berman

I think that states ought to sell off their universities. Give them endowments and let them run. But if they do exist, it becomes very difficult to look them in the eye and say, 'You get some state funding so, even though you are relatively autonomous, you can't do anything that a private rival institution is able to do.'

--Richard Epstein

Many jobs that now require a college degree do so only out of professional tradition or expectations, rather than an inherent need for four years or more of higher education. Lawyers are a good example. Most of a lawyer's skills can be obtained from a paralegal school and a good high school forensics class. This would be more cost-effective than seven years of higher education, simply to do something as straightforward as reading and understanding law cases and contracts and arguing a client's position in court. Yet in order to keep the pool of lawyers reasonably small, the bar association zealously guards its monopoly on erecting obstacles to admission, including unnecessary educational attainments.

--Andrew Peyton

A university's essential character is that of being a center of free inquiry and criticism—a thing not to be sacrificed for anything else.

--Richard Hofstadter

The notion that the church, the press, and the universities should serve the state is essentially a Communist notion. In a free society these institutions must be wholly free—which is to say that their function is to serve as checks upon the state.

--Alan Barth

Academic freedom means the right, long accepted in the academic world, to study, discuss, and write about facts and ideas without restrictions, other than those imposed by conscience and morality.

--*New York Times*

Academic freedom really means freedom of inquiry. To be able to probe according to one's own interest, knowledge and conscience is the most important freedom the scholar has, and an undissociable part of that process is to state its results.

--Donald Kennedy

By academic freedom I understand the right to search for truth and to publish and teach what one holds to be true. This right implies also a duty: one must not conceal any part of what one has recognized to be true.

--Albert Einstein

Universities should be safe havens where ruthless examination of realities will not be distorted by the aim to please or inhibited by the risk of displeasure.

--Kingman Brewster

College is a storehouse of learning because so little is taken away.

--Unknown

Why did they go to college (c. 1898), those thousands upon mounting thousands that crowded the campuses in those decades?...
They came for the best of reasons. They swarmed from the drab experiences of small town or commercial city, direct or via the boarding schools, because they had heard of college life, where, instead of the monotony of school discipline or the bourgeois experience which had succeeded their confident childhood, there was singing, cheering, drinking, and the keenest competition for honor and prestige, a life rich in the motives which were being stifled in the struggle for power in the adult world outside. They desired romance, they sought distinction, and were not unwilling to spend some bookish labor in order to win the opportunities of a class that called itself educated.

--Henry Seidel Canby

There once was a scholar named Fressor
Whose knowledge grew lessor and lessor.
It at last grew so small
He knew nothing at all,
And today he's a college professor!

--Unknown

The first duty of a lecturer—to hand you after an hour's discourse a nugget of pure truth to wrap up between the pages of your notebooks and keep on the mantelpiece for ever.

--Virginia Woolf

Colleges, in like manner, have their indispensable office—to teach elements. But they can only highly serve us, when they aim not to drill, but to create; when they gather from far every ray of various genius to their hospitable halls, and, by the concentrated fires, set the hearts of their youth on flame.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

An inviolable refuge from tyranny should be found in the university. It should be an intellectual experiment station, where new ideas may germinate and where their fruit, though still distasteful to the community as a whole, may be allowed to ripen until finally, perchance, it may become a part of the accepted intellectual food of the nation or of the world.

--*Declaration of the First Committee on Academic Freedom of the American Association of University Professors, 1915*

If at times it appears that our university colleagues protest overly much about 'academic freedom,' they do so because it is the one indispensable condition of their existence. Without it, their professional careers, the purposes to which they have dedicated their lives, would become meaningless. Either we have academic freedom or we have academic slavery. There is no middle ground for a true university.

--Grayson Kirk

Curriculum, examinations, commencement, degrees are all part of the same system; they are all inherited from the Middle Ages, and in some form they go back to the twelfth century.

--Charles Homer Haskins

Men are men before they are lawyers, or physicians, or merchants, or manufactures; and if you make them capable and sensible men, they will make themselves capable and sensible lawyers or physicians. What professional men should carry away with them from a University, is not professional knowledge, but that which should direct the use of their professional knowledge, and bring the light of general culture to illuminate the technicalities of a special pursuit.

--John Stuart Mill

UNIVERSITY n. Institution where people incapacitated by an intellectual disposition can be put out of society's way.

--Graham Storr

E*nter to grow in wisdom*.
(Inscription on the outside of the Gate to Harvard Yard.)
Depart to serve better thy country and mankind.
(Inscription on the inside of the Gate)

--Charles William Eliot

When the High Lama asked him whether Shangri-la was not unique in his experience, and if the Western world could offer anything in the least like it, he answered with a smile: 'Well, yes—to be quite frank it reminds me very slightly of Oxford, where I used to lecture. The scenery is not so good, but the subjects of study are often just as impractical, and though even the oldest of the dons is not quite so old, they appear to age in a somewhat similar way.'

--James Hilton

It is not brick and mortar, books and laboratories that make a university. These are its vegetative organs. Its spirit is given by its teachers. It is not what is their fame, what their degrees, what they have published, but what can they do?...The best teacher, other things being equal, is the one most human. The ultimate aim of education is the regulation of human conduct. Its justification is the building up of an enlightened common sense. It is to help make right action possible and prevalent that the university exists.

--David Starr Jordan

College education is a form of training which does not hurt you, provided you study and work hard after graduation.

--Unknown

Colleges are like old-age homes; except for the fact that more people die in colleges.

--Bob Dylan

In university they don't tell you that the greater part of the law is learning to tolerate fools.

--Doris Lessing

We got a course in picknicking at the university. It's called Geology, but it's really picknicking.

—Malcolm Bradbury

Does college pay? Of course. If you're a halfback or a basketball player they pay you very well. College athletes are always saying to me, 'When should I turn pro?' And I say not until you've earned all you can in college.

--Will Rogers

We're trying to build a university our football team can be proud of.

--Dr. George L. Cross,
President,
University of Oklahoma

If you asked the alumni if they'd rather have a Nobel prize-winning graduate or a Heisman Trophy winner, 95 percent would take the Heisman.

--Beano Cook

Monday through Friday they want you to be like Harvard. On Saturday they want you to play like Oklahoma.

--Jim Valvano, on College Administrators

A college education shows a man how little other people know.

--Thomas Chandler Halliburton

College novices, who think they know everything in their cloisters, and that all the learning lies in books, make dismal figures when they come into the world.

--Samuel Richardson

Education helps earning capacity. Ask any college professor.

--Herbert V. Prochnow

Theodore Roosevelt said thorough knowledge of the Bible was worth more than a college education. A thorough knowledge of anything is worth more than a college education.

--*Yale Record*

I was a modest, good-humored boy; it is Oxford that has made me insufferable.

--Max Beerbohm

I learned three important things in college—to use a library, to memorize quickly and visually, to drop asleep at any time given a horizontal surface and fifteen minutes. What I could not learn was to think creatively on schedule.

--Agnes Demille

I never went to college. But I have lectured on campuses for a quarter-century, and it is my impression that after taking a course in The Novel, it is an unusual student who would ever want to read a novel again.

--Gore Vidal

Academic education is the act of memorizing things read in books, and things told by college professors who got their education mostly by memorizing things read in books.

--Elbert Hubbard

University politics are vicious because the stakes are so small.

--Henry Kissinger

Harvard does something amazing to you. It opens the doors to the world.

—Raul Ruiz

Four years was enough of Harvard. I still had a lot to learn, but had been given the liberating notion that now I could teach myself.

--John Updike

Studying literature at Harvard is like learning about women at the Mayo Clinic.

--Roy Blount, Jr.

Princeton is a wonderful little spot; a quaint ceremonious village of puny demigods on stilts.

--Albert Einstein

The average Ph.D. thesis is nothing but a transference of bones from one graveyard to another.

--J. Frank Dobie

The quality of a university is measured more by the kind of student it turns out than the kind it takes in.

--Robert J. Kibbee

It is not enough to offer a smorgasbord of courses. We must insure that the students are not eating just at one end of the table.

--A. Bartlett Giamatti

No man should escape our universities without knowing how little he knows.

--J. Robert Oppenheimer

In American society, the university is traditionally considered to be a psychosocial moratorium, an ivory tower where you withdraw from the problems of society and the world around you to work on important things like your career and marriage.

--Abbie Hoffman

College is a place to keep warm between high school and an early marriage.

--George Gobel

The idea of a college education for all young people of capacity, provided at a nominal cost by their own states, is very peculiarly American. We in America invented the idea. We in America have developed it with remarkable speed.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

It is possible for a student to win twelve letters at a university without his learning how to write one.

--Robert Maynard Hutchins

If the men in the room would only think how they would feel graduating with a 'spinster of arts' they would see how important this is.

—Gloria Steinem

The task of a university is the creation of the future, so far as rational thought and civilized modes of appreciation can affect the issue.

—Alfred Whitehead

The university most worthy of rational admiration is that one in which your lonely thinker can feel himself lonely, most positively furthered, and most richly fed.

—William James

If I were founding a university I would first found a smoking room; then when I had a little more money in hand I would found a dormitory; then after that, or more probably with it, a decent reading room and a library. After that, if I still had more money that I couldn't use, I would hire a professor and get some text books.

—Butler Leacock

This institution will be based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind. For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, not tolerate error as long as reason is left free to combat it.

—Thomas Jefferson

A university is an institution of higher yawning.

--Leonard L. Levinson

The university is not engaged in making ideas safe for students. It is engaged in making students safe for ideas.

—Clark Kerr

A university should be a place of light, of liberty, and of learning.

—Benjamin Disraeli

A senior always feels like the university is going to the kids.

—Tom Masson

Universities where individualism is dreaded as nothing else, wherein manufactures of patent drama, business schools and courses for the propagation of fine embroidery are established on the order of the monied.

--Thomas Beer

It takes most men five years to recover from a college education, and to learn that poetry is as vital to thinking as knowledge.

--Brooks Atkinson

Whatever is new, productive, innovative, or just popular is sacrificed first to preserve whatever and whoever is most tenured. The accounting of education reform has been and remains LIFO—last in, first out....No one should be surprised—this is part of the persistent strategy schools and colleges have used to prevent change with near-perfect success for decades.

--Lewis J. Perelman

There is no crisis to which academics will not respond with a seminar.

--Marvin Bressler

A university anywhere can aim no higher than to be as British as possible for the sake of the undergraduates, as German as possible for the sake of the public at large—and as confused as possible for the preservation of the whole uneasy balance.

--Clark Kerr

A college student is someone who's learned to write home for money in three or four languages.

--Unknown

If nobody dropped out at the eighth grade, who would hire the college graduates?

--Unknown

A college education seldom hurts a man if he's willing to learn a little something after he graduates.

--Unknown

American college students are like American colleges—each has half-dulled faculties.

--James Thurber

At best, most college presidents are running something that is somewhere between a faltering corporation and a hotel.

--Leon Botstein

Colleges hate geniuses, just as convents hate saints.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

An endeavor to please elders is at the bottom of high marks and mediocre careers.

--John Jay Chapman

No profit grows where is no pleasure taken; in brief, sir, study what you most affect.

--William Shakespeare

Students of all cultures are supposed to come together on campus to learn from each other and about each other...This trend toward ethnic identification has often come at the expense of the unity represented by the symbol of the melting pot.

--Sandra Day O'Connor

There was an old cannibal whose stomach suffered from so many disorders that he could only digest animals that had no spines. Thus, for years, he subsisted only upon university professors.

--Louis Phillips

University printing presses exist, and are subsidised by the Government for the purpose of producing books which no one can read; and they are true to their high calling.

--F. M. Cornford

What is desperately needed...is the skepticism and the sense of history that a liberal arts education provides.

--Felix G. Rohatyn

You wish to know my views regarding liberal studies....I deem no study good which results in money-making.

--Seneca

When Harvard opened, they didn't have calculus classes because calculus hadn't been invented yet.

—*theChive*

Don't hire Harvard Business School graduates. This elite, in my opinion, is missing some pretty fundamental requirements for success: humility; respect for people on the firing line; deep understanding of the nature of the business and the kind of people who can enjoy themselves making it prosper; respect from way down the line; a demonstrated record of guts, industry, loyalty down, judgment, fairness, and honesty under pressure.

--Robert Townsend

Education—That state of resentful coma that...dons dignify by the name of research.

--Harold Laski

Most people tire of a lecture in ten minutes; clever people can do it in five. Sensible people never go to lectures at all.

--Stephen Leacock

At the University, I saw many men I knew doing courses only to gratify their parents or, as the phrase went, 'to get something solid behind them.' There was a moral virtue in suppressing all real talent; in flying in the face of impulse and vocation and doing something, instead, which was completely repugnant. That made parents happy.

--Barry Humphries

We have got lots of folks who are colleged, but too few who are educated.

--Langston Hughes

It's painfully obvious that this nation and this world cannot allow white students to go through higher education without interacting with blacks in authoritative positions.

--Nikki Giovanni

The role of the genuine scholar is not only to understand the world, but to help to change it.

—Johnetta B. Cole

Personal experience is important in any scholarly activity, but it cannot substitute for scientific research.

--James Cone

No matter how you feel. No matter how you think the professor feels about you. It's important to have a consistent presence in the classroom. If nothing else, the professor will know you care enough and are serious enough to be there.

--Nikki Giovanni

It is a liberal arts education that develops excitement about learning, an excitement that lasts a lifetime. That's empowerment!

—Johnetta B. Cole

You have been telling your parents you are grown. Now is your chance to act like it.

--Nikki Giovanni

It may be that we should stop putting so much emphasis in our own minds on the monetary value of a college education and put more emphasis on the intangible social and cultural values to be derived from learning. The time may be coming when we will have to start accepting the ideas that education is life, not merely a preparation for it.

—Seymour E. Harris

Man's knowledge of science has clearly outstripped his knowledge of man. Our only hope of making the atom servant rather than master lies in education, in a broad liberal education where each student within his capacity can free himself from trammels of dogmatic prejudice and apply his educational accoutrement to besetting social and human problems.

--Harry Woodburn Chase

A college education is not a quantitative body of memorized knowledge salted away in a card file. It is a taste for knowledge, a taste for philosophy, if you will; a capacity to explore, to question, to perceive relationships, between fields of knowledge and experience.

--A. Whitney Griswold

I read Shakespeare and the Bible, and I can shoot dice. That's what I call a liberal education.

--Tallulah Bankhead

Some students go to college to learn to think, but most go to learn what the professors think.

--Unknown

Many a man spends the happiest years of his life as a freshman at college.

--Unknown

The greatest advantage of going to college is that you'll never regret you didn't.

--Unknown

A college is an athletic institution where a few courses are also offered for the benefit of the feeble-bodied.

--Unknown

Of what use is a college education to high school graduates who already know everything?

--Unknown

You can't expect first-class learning by students if they get second-class teaching by professors.

--Unknown

Two can live as cheaply as one—if the two are the parents and the one is their daughter at college.

--Unknown

Organization and method mean much, but contagious human characters mean more in a university.

--William James

We guarantee the quality of our product or we return the boy.

--A. Lawrence Lowell
(President of
Harvard)

Undergraduates owe their happiness chiefly to the consciousness that they are no longer at school. The nonsense which was knocked out of them at school is all put gently back at Oxford or Cambridge.

--Sir Max Beerbohm

The university will always exist as a community of persons pursuing culture, talking culture, thinking culture, above all criticizing culture.

--Bernard Shaw

Placing too much importance on where a child goes rather than what he does there...doesn't take into account the child's needs or individuality, and this is true in college selection as well as kindergarten.

--Norman Giddan

Botany is the only thing about flowers that coeds dislike.

—Evan Esar

The thing that surprises the college graduate most when he gets out in the world is to find out how much uneducated people know.

--Unknown

Each year 25 percent of the freshman class at Harvard enjoy the first so much that they repeat it.

--A. Lawrence Lowell

A lecturer often makes you feel dumb at one end and numb at the other.

--Unknown

Dry lectures never satisfy a thirst for knowledge.

--Unknown

Class reunions are full of people who graduated from colleges they couldn't get into today.

--Unknown

Never get married in college; it's hard to get a start if a prospective employer finds you've already made one mistake.

—Elbert Hubbard

Some colleges have a strict rule on sports: no student athlete may be awarded a letter unless he can tell which letter it is.

--Unknown

Most subjects at universities are taught for no other purpose than that they may be retaught when the students become teachers.

--G. C. Lichtenberg

College: A place to learn how to learn.

--Henry M. Wriston

In several educational institutions during the last few years manifestation of student activity in riots has been exciting the country. To the conservative mind, these riots bode no good. As a matter of fact student riots of one sort or another, protests against the order that is, kicks against college and university management indicate a healthy growth and a normal functioning of the academic mind.

Youth should be radical. Youth should demand change in the world. Youth should not accept the old order if the world is to move on. But the old orders should not be moved easily—certainly not at the mere whim or behest of youth. There must be clash and if youth hasn't enough force or fervor to produce the clash the world grows stale and stagnant and sour in decay. If our colleges and universities do not breed men who riot, who rebel, who attack life with all the youthful vim and vigor, then there is something wrong with our colleges. The more riots that come on college campuses, the better world for tomorrow.

--William Allen White

I would advise no one to send his child where the Holy Scriptures are not supreme. Every institution that does not unceasingly pursue the study of God's word becomes corrupt. Because of this we can see what kind of people they become in the universities and what they are like now. Nobody is to blame for this except the pope, the bishops, and the prelates, who are all charged with training young people. The universities only ought to turn out men who are experts in the Holy Scriptures, men who can become bishops and priests, and stand in the front line against heretics, the devil, and all the world. But where do you find that? I greatly fear that the universities, unless they teach the Holy Scriptures diligently and impress them on the young students, are wide gates to hell.

--Martin Luther

Enter by this gateway and seek the way of honor, the light of truth, the will to work for men. (Inscription on the archway at the entrance to the medical college, *University of Virginia*, Charlottesville.)

--E. A. Alderman

We must train and classify the whole of our male citizens, and make military instruction a regular part of collegiate education.

--Thomas Jefferson

Generally young men are regarded as radicals. This is a popular misconception. The most conservative persons I ever met are college undergraduates. The radicals are the men past middle life.

--Woodrow Wilson

A university must give its priority to the numerically small but historically significant band of men and women who believe the worth and dignity of knowledge does not depend solely upon its current usefulness.

--Kingman Brewster

There is only one justification for universities, as distinguished from trade schools. They must be centers of criticism.

--Robert M. Hutchins

The university is simply the canary in the coal mine. It is the most sensitive barometer of social change.

--James Perkins

Tradition is just peer pressure from dead people.

—Laura Greenwood

Fifty per cent of what I know today will be obsolete in five years, but I don't know which half.

--James R. Hickman

I would suggest that the B.A. be issued on paper which deteriorates in five years.

--William Haber

We started out being Communists, then we were Socialists, then Social Democrats, then Democrats, then full professors.

--Unknown Professor,
New York Times,
9/7/75

A liberal education is at the heart of a civil society, and at the heart of a liberal education is the act of teaching.

--A. Bartlett Giamatti

When the man who knows all about the fruit fly chromosomes finds himself sitting next to an authority on Beowulf...there may be an uneasy silence.

--Brand Blanshard

When I give a lecture, I accept that people look at their watches, but what I do not tolerate is when they look at it and raise it to their ear to find out if it stopped.

--Marcel Achard

Free human dialogue...lies at the heart of education.

--Neil Postman

The things taught in schools and colleges are not an education, but the means of education.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

You could almost define a university education as an initiation into a variety of powerful ongoing discussions that can occur only through the repeated use of a new language in the company of others....All students need opportunities to talk about what they're learning: to test their ideas, reveal their assumptions, talk through the places where new knowledge clashes with ingrained belief.

--Mike Rose

The type of education a college person gets sometimes depends on the type of institution he attends—educational or coeducational.

--Unknown

Colleges and insane asylums both are mental institutions in a way. But one has to show some improvement to graduate from an asylum.

--Unknown

'Four long years of college,' sighed the girl graduate, 'and who has it got me?'

--Unknown

My parents sent my brother through law school. He graduated. Now he's suing them for wasting seven years of his life.

--Mike Binder

I have a teenage daughter who wants to go to college. But I wonder why I should pay for her education when she already knows everything.

--Sheila Kay

THE STAGES OF STUDENTS

At the start of college, the dean came in and said, 'Good Morning,' to the class. When they echoed back to him, he responded, 'Ah, you're freshmen.'

He explained...

When they say, 'Good Morning,' back, they're freshmen.

When they put their newspapers down and open their books, they're sophomores.

When they look up so they can see the instructor over the tops of the newspapers, they're juniors.

When they put their feet up on the desks and keep reading, they're seniors.

When they write it down, they're graduate students.

--Unknown

Dear Mother and Dad:

It has now been three months since I left for college. I have been remiss in writing and am very sorry for my thoughtlessness in not having written before. I will bring you up to date now, but before you read on, please sit down. You are not to read any further unless you are sitting down... Okay?

Well, then, I am getting along pretty well now. The skull fracture and the concussion I got when I jumped out of the window of my dormitory when it caught fire shortly after my arrival, are pretty well healed now. I only spent two weeks in the hospital and now I can see almost normally and only get three headaches a day.

Fortunately the fire in the dormitory and my jump were witnessed by an attendant at the gas station near the dorm and he was the one who called the Fire Department and the ambulance. He also visited me at the hospital, and since I had nowhere to live because of the burnt-out dorm, he was kind enough to invite me to share his apartment with him. It's really a basement room, but it is kind of cute. He is a very fine boy and we have fallen deeply in love and are planning to get married. We haven't set the exact date yet, but it will be before my pregnancy begins to show.

Yes, Mother and Dad, I am pregnant. I know how much you are looking forward to being grandparents and I know you will welcome the baby and give it the same love and devotion and tender care you gave me when I was a child. The reason for the delay in our marriage is that my boyfriend has some minor infection which prevents us from passing our premarital blood tests and I carelessly caught it from him. This will soon clear up with the penicillin injections I am now taking daily.

I know you will welcome him into our family with open arms. He is kind and although not well educated, he is ambitious. Although he is of a different race and religion than ours….I am sure you will love him as I do.

Now that I have brought you up to date, I want to tell you that there was no dormitory fire, I did not have a concussion or skull fracture, I was not in the hospital, I am not pregnant, I am not engaged, I do not have syphilis and there is no boyfriend in my life. However, I am getting a 'D' in History and an 'F' in Science, and I wanted you to see these marks in the proper perspective.

Your loving daughter,
Dorothy

--Unknown

In 100 years we have gone from teaching Latin and Greek in high school to teaching Remedial English in college.

—Joseph Sobran

Economists report that a college education adds many thousands of dollars to a man's lifetime income—which he then spends sending his son to college.

--Bill Vaughan

I learned law so well, the day I graduated I sued the college, won the case, and got my tuition back.

--Fred Allen

To live for a time close to great minds is the best kind of education.

--John Buchan

Yes, the lectures are optional. Graduation is also optional.

--Bob Bickford

Dublin university contains the cream of Ireland: Rich and thick.

--Samuel Beckett

Harvard takes perfectly good plums as students, and turns them into prunes.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

A university education is our greatest weapon in the battle against our natural stupidity.

--Steven Pinker

The professor admits that his own job in university teaching is by and large divorced from the normal discipline of everyday life in the marketplace. It bears only the faintest resemblance to most work in the real world.

--Linda Hirshman

Of course, I thought little of my prescribed lessons, and right here it was greatly to my advantage to have a sensible tutor wise enough to connive at this and other irregularities of the same nature. In this way I ran through Virgil's Aeneid, then Terence, then Plautus, and some Italian comedies, allured by the pleasure of the subject. On the other hand, had my tutor been so foolish as to deprive me of this amusement, I verily believe I would have brought nothing away from college but a hatred of books, as most of our your gentlemen do.

--Montaigne

College isn't the place to go for ideas.

--Helen Keller

A UNIVERSITY

There are few earthly things more beautiful than a University. It is a place where those who hate ignorance may strive to know, where those who perceive truth may strive to make others see; where seekers and learners alike, banded together in the search for knowledge, will honor thought in all its finer ways, will welcome thinkers in distress or in exile, will uphold ever the dignity of thought and learning and will exact standards in these things. They give to the young in their impressionable years the bonds of a lofty purpose shared, of a great corporate life whose links will not be loosed until they die. They give young people that close companionship for which youth longs, and that chance of the endless discussion of themes which are endless—without which youth would seem a waste of time. There are few earthly things more splendid than a University. In these days of broken frontiers and collapsing values—when every future looks somewhat grim, and every ancient foothold has become something of a quagmire, wherever a University stands, it stands and shines; wherever it exists, the free minds of men, urged on to full and fair inquiry, may still bring wisdom into human affairs.

—John Masefield

Requiring students to take a course in Reason and Faith would be like requiring them to take a course in Astronomy and Astrology. Faith is believing in something without good reasons to do so. It has no place in anything but a religious institution, and our society has no shortage of these.

--Steven Pinker

College is a time to unsettle presumptions, to defamiliarize the familiar, to reveal what's going on beneath and behind appearances.

--Louis Menand

College has become, for many, merely a 'status marker' signaling membership in the educated caste, and a place to meet spouses of similar status—'associative mating.'

--Glenn Harlan Reynolds

Since 1961, the time students spend reading, writing and otherwise studying has fallen from 24 hours a week to about 15—enough for a degree often desired only as an expensive signifier of rudimentary qualities (e.g., the ability to follow instructions).

--Glenn Harlan Reynolds

Most college students are not just unwilling, but functionally unable, to be without their media links to the world.

--*University of Maryland* Study

Today's kids inhabit a world where the cultural hype they have been fed at home and at school about how wonderful they are is about to meet a rude comedown. The anthem they will hear after the champagne corks pop at graduation is not so much American the beautiful as American the beaten. Bowed down by a decade's worth of college debt, these kids are going to have to be pretty special—and very lucky—to live anywhere near as well as their parents did. And nothing about their upbringing prepared them for this.

--Tina Brown

We've been slow to adopt new technology because we don't want to. We like getting up in front of 25 people. It's more fun, but it's also damnably expensive.

--Professor Richard Vedder

Women may think the more degrees they get, the more chances they have of being hired, but they are swimming upstream.

--Anna Fels

Eighteen-year-olds demand amenities—high-speed Internet, well-upholstered classrooms, world-class fitness facilities—and in order to say competitive, college administrators happily provide them. Then they raise the tuition.

--Megan McArdle

Today's college students can buy themselves a four-year vacation in an increasingly-well-upholstered resort, and everyone congratulates them for investing in themselves.

--Megan McArdle

Between 1992 and 2008, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded rose almost 50 percent….60 percent of those additional students ended up in jobs that have not historically required a degree—waitress, electrician, secretary, mail carrier. That's one reason the past few decades have witnessed such an explosion in graduate and professional degrees, as kids who previously would have stopped at college look for ways to stand out in the job market.

--Richard Vedder

Old Professors never die, they just lose their faculties.

--Stephen Fry

School is in the air. It is the time of year when millions of apprehensive young people are crammed into their parents' cars along with all their worldly gadgets and driven off to college.

--Niall Ferguson

If I want to know what my colleagues think, I read their books.

--Professor Judith Shklar

In the college dating market only 20 percent of the men (those considered to have the highest status) are having 80 percent of the sex, with only 20 percent of the women (those with the greatest sexual willingness).

--Susan Walsh

Universities are an example of organizations dominated wholly by intellectuals; yet, outside pure science, they have not been an optimal milieu for the unfolding of creative talents. In neither art, music, literature, technology and social theory, nor planning have the Universities figured as originators or as seedbeds of new talents and energies.

--Eric Hoffer

Liberal arts colleges are where students ponder life's big questions, and learn to think en route to successful careers and richer lives….Liberal arts colleges are proven launching pads to the top of business, government and academia (graduating 12 U.S. Presidents, six chief justices and 12 of 53 Nobel laureates).

--*Associated Press*

About one-third of the women in this audience will be working full-time in 15 years. And almost all of you will be working for the guy you are sitting next to.

--Sheryl Sandberg
in 2011 Address to
Harvard Business
Students

The behaviors that school rewards—studying, careful preparation, patient climbing from one level to the next—seem to give women an advantage academically, judging from the fact that they get higher grades in college than men do. Yet these behaviors aren't necessarily so helpful in the workplace. Out in the work world, people hire and promote based on personality as much as on formal qualifications, and very often networking can trump grinding away.

--Garance Frake-Ruta

What is it that often puts the B student ahead of the A student in adult life, especially in business and creative professions? Certainly it is more than verbal skill. To create, one must have a sense of adventure and playfulness. One needs toughness to experiment and hazard the risk of failure. One has to be strong enough to start all over again if need be and alert enough to learn from whatever happens. One needs a strong ego to be propelled forward in one's drive toward an untried goal. Above all, one has to possess the ability to play!

--Theresa Caplan

College taught me how to have fun with knowledge. It enriched my life in ways that cannot be quantified. I came out of college with a debt, but my real debt was to my professors.

--Richard Cohen

Find a husband on campus before you graduate. Smart women can't (shouldn't) marry men who aren't at least their intellectual equal. As Princeton women, we have almost priced ourselves out of the market. Simply put, there is a vey limited population of men who are as smart or smarter than we are. And I say again—you will never again be surrounded by this concentration of men who are worthy of you.

--Susan Patton

Your 20s are not supposed to be for an 'MRS' degree or starting a family; they're for finishing your education and finding yourself. Marriage used to be the event that marked your passage into adulthood—the cornerstone of an adult life. Now it's the capstone, the last thing you do after all the other foundations are in place.

--Megan McArdle

I have never really spent a whole day just sitting and reading on the lawn. I never spent that night you're supposed to spend in college, drinking coffee for hours and talking philosophy with my friends. In fact, I'm not sure I really ever got to know my friends that well at all.

--22-Year-Old
Accomplished
College Student

Since 1996, women have earned more bachelor's degrees than men, and last year they started earning a greater number of master's and doctoral degrees. It is an outrage that the male-female wage gap persists, and yet, over the past 10 years, in almost every country in the developed world, it has shrunk. In developed countries, by most economic indicators, women's lives have improved relative to men's. Of the 15 fastest-growing job categories in the United States, 13 are dominated by women.

--Stephen Marche

America's most elite educational institutions just aren't playing fair. The kids who make it into those rarefied colleges and universities are likely to be graded more leniently than in other institutions. In 2001, Harvard was embarrassed by the revelation that 90 percent of its students graduated with honors.

--Don Moore

I wonder if anybody does anything at Oxford but dream and remember, the place is so beautiful. One almost expects the people to sing instead of speaking. It is all like an opera.

--William Butler Yeats

One of the tragedies of the modern economy is that because one's college history is such a crucial signal in our labor market, perfectly able people who simply couldn't sit still in a classroom at the age of 16, or who didn't have their act together at 18, or who chose not to go to graduate school at 22, routinely get left behind for good. That such early factors so profoundly affect career arcs and hiring decisions made two or three decades later is, on is face, absurd.

--Don Peck

Everywhere I go I'm asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them.

--Flannery O'Connor

Always at the top of her class in her public high school outside Washington, D.C., Caroline Sacks (a pseudonym) had pursued an avid interest in science since childhood. She chose to attend Brown rather than the university of Maryland—and because she went to a great university instead of a good one, she ended up abandoning her goal of a science degree. She had never not excelled academically. But at Brown, her organic chemistry class gave her just this feeling of overwhelming inadequacy. Sacks dropped science and switched to liberal arts. If she'd gone to Maryland, she would have been spared a crisis of confidence and never would have veered away from a field that she loved—and that promised a more lucrative future….The point is that being a big fish is very helpful, even when picking the small pond means forgoing the high-status allure of the big pond. Second-rate schools can promote first-rate achievement, whereas more-selective environments can squelch it. For example, in the first six years after receiving their doctorate, research economists published more, and in more-prestigious journals, if they had been standouts at a bottom-tier school than if they had been not-quite-stars at the best schools.

--Tina Rosenberg

At *Spelman College*, a historically black, all-women's college in Atlanta, about half of last year's incoming class of some 530 students were obese or had high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, or some other chronic health condition that could be improved with exercise. Each year, Spelman was spending nearly $1 million on athletics—not for those students, but for the 4 percent of the student body that played sports.

--Amanda Ripley

With enthusiasm rising for massive open online courses, or MOOCs….the current interest in 'competency-based learning'—liberating students to earn degrees not by amassing credit hours but by preparing for assessments of particular skills at whatever pace and by whichever route they choose—is ...something some reformers see as the seeds of a revolution in college education, promising ultra-convenient, self-guided, low-cost courses of study for everyone. The 'beginning of the unbundling of the American university' is how one observer has described the transformation. All it will take for students to avail themselves of this emerging opportunity is a clear sense of where they're headed, lots of self-motivation, and good access to information about what mix of skills is likely to lead to a promising career.

--Ann Hulbert

We are living in 1937, and our universities, I suggest, are not half-way out of the fifteenth century. We have made hardly any changes in our conception of university organization, education, graduation, for a century—for several centuries.

--H. G. Wells

The only way I would be at *Notre Dame* today is if I was washing dishes. It wasn't nearly as competitive when I was applying. It is so much more difficult now.

--Jim Minta, *Notre Dame* Alumnus

Last year probably 750 valedictorians applied and we rejected half.

--Jim Minta, *Notre Dame* Admissions

If my own son, who is now 10 months, came to me and said, 'You promised to pay for my tuition at Harvard. How about giving me 50,000 instead to start a little business?' I might think that was a good idea.

--William John Bennett

Academic and aristocratic people live in such an uncommon atmosphere that common sense can rarely reach them.

--Samuel Butler

Fraternities provide their members with matchless leadership training. While the system has produced its share of poets, aesthetes, and Henry James scholars, it is far more famous for its success in the powerhouse fraternity fields of business, law, and politics. An astonishing number of CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, congressmen and male senators, and American presidents have belonged to fraternities. Many more thousands of American men count their fraternal experience—and the friendships made within it—as among the most valuable in their lives. The organizations raise millions of dollars for worthy causes, contribute millions of hours in community service, and seek to steer young men toward lives of service and honorable action.

--Caitlin Flanagan

The entire multibillion-dollar 2,000-campus American college system—with its armies of salaried professors, administrators, librarians, bursars, secretaries, admissions officers, alumni liaisons, development-office workers, coaches, groundskeepers, janitors, maintenance workers, psychologists, nurses, trainers, technology-support staffers, residence-life personnel, cafeteria workers, diversity-compliance officers, the whole shebang—depends overwhelmingly for its very existence on one resource: an ever-renewing supply of fee-paying undergraduates.

--Caitlin Flanagan

College could never attract hundreds of thousands of them each year—many of them woefully unprepared of the experience, a staggering number (some 40 percent) destined never to get a degree, more than 60 percent of them saddled with student loans that they very well may carry with them to their deathbeds—if the experience were not accurately marketed as a blast.

--Caitlin Flanagan

They show up on campus lugging enormous Bed Bath & Beyond bags crammed with 'essentials,' and with new laptop computers, on which they will surf Facebook and Tumblr while some coot down at the lectern bangs on about Maslow's hierarchy and tries to make his PowerPoint slides appear right side up. Many of these consumer goods have been purchased with money from the very student loans that will haunt them for so long, but no matter: it's college; any cost can be justified.

--Caitlin Flanagan

Fraternities tie alumni to their colleges in a powerful and lucrative way. At least one study has affirmed what had long been assumed: that fraternity men tend to be generous to their alma maters.

--Caitlin Flanagan

American colleges came into being with the express purpose of training young men for the ministry, a preparation that was marked by a chilly round of early risings, Greek and Latin recitations, religious study, and strict discipline meted out by a dour faculty—along with expectations of both temperance and chastity. Hardly conditions that would auger the current trillion-dollar student-loan balloon that hovers over us like a pre-ignition *Hindenburg*. But sexual frustration and homiletics would not last forever as the hallmarks of American college life.

--Caitlin Flanagan

To begin with, the fraternities involved themselves very deeply in the business of student housing, which provided tremendous financial savings to their host institutions, and allowed them to expand the number of students they could admit. Today, one in eight American students at four-year colleges lives in a Greek house, and a conservative estimate of the collective value of these houses across the country is $3 billion. Greek housing constitutes a troubling fact for college administrators (the majority of fraternity-related deaths occur in and around fraternity houses, over which the schools have limited and widely varying levels of operational oversight) and also a great boon to them (saving them untold millions of dollars in the construction and maintenance of campus-owned and -controlled dormitories).

--Caitlin Flanagan

Fraternities provide colleges with unlimited social programming of a kind that is highly attractive to legions of potential students, most of whom are not applying to ivy-covered rejection factories, but rather to vast public institutions and obscure private colleges that are desperate for students. When Mom is trying—against all better judgment—to persuade lackluster Joe Jr. to go to college, she gets a huge assist when she drives him over to State and he gets an eyeful of frat row. Joe Jr. may be slow to grasp even the most elemental concepts of math and English (his first two yeas of expensive college study will largely be spent in remediation of the subjects he should have learned, for free, in high school), but one look at the Fiji house and he gets the message: kids are getting laid here; kids are having fun. Maybe he ought to snuff out the joint and take a second look at that application Mom keeps pushing across the kitchen table.

--Caitlin Flanagan

Boomers, who in their own days destroyed the doctrine of *in loco parentis* so that they could party in blissful, unsupervised freedom, have grown up into the helicopter parents of today, holding fiercely to a pair of mutually exclusive desires: on the one hand that their kids get to experience the same unfettered personal freedoms of college that they remember so fondly, and on the other that the colleges work hard to protect the physical and emotional well-being of their precious children.

--Caitlin Flanagan

Fraternities are part of an industry that has tremendous risk and a tremendous history of rape, serious injury, and death, and the vast majority share common risk-management policies that are fundamentally flawed. Most of them are awash in alcohol. And most if not all of them are bereft of any meaningful adult supervision..... The fraternity system is the largest industry in this country directly involved in the provision of alcohol to underage people.

--Douglas Fierberg

The fraternity experience at its best constitutes an appeal to a young man's better angels: through service, leadership training, and accountability for mistakes, a brother can learn the valuable lessons he will need to become 'a better dad, a better teacher, a better engineer, a better pilot, a better 'insert career here."

--Peter Smithhisler

One of the wonderful things about going to a small college is you can get into everything.

--Art Linkletter

You can retake a class...but you can't relive a party.

--*theChive*

Many younger people have *never* sent a letter. When my son, Rob, was in college, he had to send a letter for some reason that I don't remember. What I do remember is that he called me to ask some technical questions such as (I am not making any of these questions up):
Where could he get a stamp?
Were there different kinds of stamps?
Well then, which one should he buy?
How much would it cost?
What should he physically do with the letter when it was finally ready to go?

--Dave Barry

Your brain can only absorb what your ass can endure.

--P. Dan Wiwchar

A fraternity-related hazing death has occurred nearly every year since 2000. Hospital transports for alcohol overdose are a common occurrence Thursday through Saturday nights on college campuses across the country. One in five women will be sexually assaulted while in college….More than half of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experience hazing, and nearly half experienced it prior to coming to college.

--Scott Smith

Let's not burn the universities yet. After all, the damage they do might be worse.

--H. L. Mencken

The Guy Code—a set of attitudes, values, and traits that describe what it means to be a man.

- Boys don't cry.
- It's better to be mad than sad.
- Don't get mad—get even.
- Take it like a man.
- He who has the most toys when he dies, wins.
- Size matters.
- I don't stop to ask for directions.
- Nice guys finish last.
- It's all good.
- Never show emotion.
- Winning is imperative.
- Compassion is taboo.

--Scott Smith

College students regularly overestimate the amount their peers drink and then proceed to increase their own consumption in order to keep up. These misconceptions coupled with the lack of a playbook for becoming an adult leave guys to figure it out as they go along, typically with too much room for error.

--Scott Smith

While many may not agree with the...escapist nature of political and sports talk radio, video games, pornography, anonymous message boards, an online gambling, the fact remains that guys spend an inordinate amount of time in these spaces. Certainly there is a reverberating effect of this type of retreat into a 'no girls allowed' and no consequences environment.

--Scott Smith

In *Cornell's* math Ph.D. program there's a particular course during which the going inevitably gets tough. Male students typically recognize the hurdle for what it is, and respond to their lower grades by saying, 'Wow, this is a tough class.' That's what's known as external attribution, and in a situation like this, it's usually a healthy sign of resilience. Women tend to respond differently. When the course gets hard, their reaction is more likely to be 'You see, I knew I wasn't good enough.' That's internal attribution, and it can be debilitating.

--Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

The reason elite university education is go great is because you take an expert in the subject, plus a bunch of smart kids, and put them in a room and apply pressure—and *magic* happens.

--Unnamed University President

Whether it's for a fraternity, sports team, club, or some other selective group, guys put up with ceremonial degradation in order to be accepted, liked, and aligned with the in crowd.

--Scott Smith

Lectures are pedagogically unsound, although for universities looking to trim budgets they are at least cost-effective, with one employee for dozens or hundreds of tuition-paying students. A great way to teach, but a terrible way to learn.

--Stephen M. Kosslyn

Professors, especially tenured ones at places like Harvard, answer to nobody.

--Graeme Wood

When Eric Bonabeau assigned the reading for his class on induction, he barely bothered to tell us what induction was, or how it related to North Atlantic cod. When I asked him afterward about his decision not to spend a session introducing the concept, he said the Web had plenty of tutorials about induction, and any student ought to be able to learn the basics on her own time, in her own way. Seminars are for advanced discussion….Just as learning to read in Latin was essential before books became widely available in other languages, gathering students in places where they could attend lectures in person was once a necessary part of higher education. But by now books are abundant, and so are serviceable online lectures by knowledgeable experts.

--Graeme Wood

At any great university, there are faculty who are terrible at teaching but whose work drives their field forward with greater momentum than the research of their classroom-competent colleagues.

--Graeme Wood

SATs are not considered, because affluent students can boost their scores by hiring tutors. They're a good way of determining how rich a student is.

--Ben Nelson

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be lit.

--Plutarch

Content is about to become free and ubiquitous. The institutions that are going to survive are the ones that reimagine themselves in this new world.

--Daphne Koller

The idea that college will in two decades look exactly as it does today increasingly sounds like the forlorn, fingers-crossed hope of a higher-education dinosaur that retirement comes before extinction.

--Ben Nelson

The university of the future may be one that serves all ages. Colleges will reposition themselves economically as offering just as much to the aging as to the adolescent: courses priced individually for later-life knowledge-seekers; lots of campus events of interest to students, parents, and the community as a whole; a pleasant college-town atmosphere to retire near. In decades to come, college professors may address students ranging from age 18 to 80.

—Gregg Easterbrook

Once you have the cap and gown all you need do is open your mouth. Whatever nonsense you talk becomes wisdom and all the rubbish good sense.

—Moliere

The most important thing to learn in college is conformity. It is not the time to experiment with ideas and finding your style! If you want to advance to the basic bitch big leagues when you graduate now is them time to stop thinking and start bronzing.

— Anna Merlan

I spent four years in college. I didn't learn a thing. It was really my own fault. I had a double major in psychology and reverse psychology.

—B. J. Novak

Many college men are insecure, unprepared for sex, and desperate to prove themselves to their friends. Many of them approach hookups with the mentality that 'sex is a battle: *I have to conquer you, I have to break down your resistance.'*

—Michael Kimmel

Many students arrive at college after having been 'helicopter parented,' with their access to alcohol and sex strictly policed until the day they leave home. They're then plunked into an environment full of unfamiliar rituals, bravado, enough booze to put the Russian army into a coma, and more sexually available people than they'll ever encounter again.

—Michael Kimmel

For universities, military students are a better version of foreign students. That is, they work hard, pay full tuition, and unlike many international students face no language barrier or difficulty adjusting to the American type of give-and-take classroom exchanges.

—James Fallows

Graduate School: An institution whose purpose is to train people to staff it.

--Gary Saul Morson

Day after day, I could feel the confidence drain from my body. I was not what these guys wanted. They wanted thinner, blonder, dumber … My sassy one-liners were only working on the cafeteria employees, who I was visiting all too frequently, tacking on not the Freshman 15, but the 30, in record-breaking time, which led my mother to make comments over winter break like, 'You look healthy!'

—Amy Schumer

I don't believe anybody can really grasp everything that's even in one textbook.

—Joshua Lederberg

A blue book is a booklet for exam taking that's almost as flimsy as the arguments you wrote in it.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

A font is a style of typeface carefully chosen to make your English teacher think a paper is five pages long.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Psychology is the rigorous scientific study of mental functions and behaviors by people who chose the easiest major.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

The Graduate Management Admission Test [or GMAT] is a test to determine whether you'll be able to put off getting a job for a few more years.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

A syllabus is an outline of the books your professor has written and wants you to buy.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

The University of Virginia (UVA) is a public research university founded by Thomas Jefferson, making it home to the most awkward African American Studies program in the country.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Brown University is the Ivy League's Ringo.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

A fraternity (or frat) is an organized society of men associated together in an environment dedicated to the intellectual, physical, date-rapical and social development of its members.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

A law school (also known as a school of law or college of law) is an educational institute specializing in delaying unemployment for three years.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Ayn Rand was an American novelist, best known for developing the philosophy of Objectivism, which apparently states that every college freshman must get really into Objectivism.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

The human brain is amazing. It functions 24/7 from when we were born & only stops when you take a test or talk to someone attractive.

—*https://ifunny.co*

It's a shame that college students are asked to choose between the humanities and the sciences—as if the universe were knowable from just one perspective.

—Diane Ackerman

Against my will, in the course of my travels, the belief that everything worth knowing was known at *Cambridge* gradually wore off. In this respect my travels were very useful to me.

—Bertrand Russell

The purpose of a university should be to make a son as unlike his father as possible. By the time a man has grown old enough to have a son in college he has specialized. The university should generalize the treatment of its undergraduates, should struggle to put them in touch with every force of life.

—Woodrow Wilson

The great voice of America does not come from the seats of learning, but in a murmur from the hills and the woods and the farms and the factories and the mills, rolling on and gaining volume until it comes to us the voice from the homes of the common men. Do these murmurs come into the corridors of the university? I have not heard them.

—Woodrow Wilson

No student knows his subject: the most he knows is where and how to find out the things he does not know.

—Woodrow Wilson

College ain't so much where you been as how you talk when you get back.

—Ossie Davis

When it comes to college, the central challenge for most Americans in the 21st century is not *going*; it's *finishing*. Thirty-five million Americans now have some college experience but no degree. More Americans than live in Texas, in other words, have spent enough time at college to glimpse the promised land—but not enough to reap the financial bounty. Some are worse off than if they'd never enrolled at all, carrying tens of thousands of dollars in debt, not to mention the scar tissue of regret and self-doubt.

—Amanda Ripley

We like to think of college as a meritocracy, a place where only the dedicated and smart survive. But it seems to be something else. Between 1970 and 2012, the proportion of American 24-year-olds who came from affluent families and had a bachelor's degree rose from 40 percent to 73 percent—quite an enlightenment period for privileged kids. But over the same period, the proportion of American 24-year-olds who came from low-income families and had a bachelor's degree rose from 6 percent to just 8 percent. The country's uneven public-school systems cannot be blamed entirely for this state of affairs. Too many people come to college unprepared academically, it's true. But even those low-income students who outperform their affluent peers on tests are less likely to graduate from college.

—Amanda Ripley

Income inequality started increasing in 1983, and 70 percent of that inequality is derived from differences in access to higher education. It is both a fountain of opportunity and a bastion of privilege. The problem has gotten worse and worse and worse.

—Anthony P. Carnevale

According to an analysis released in December by the *Brookings Institution's Brown Center on Education Policy*, half of American college freshmen 'seriously underestimate' the amount of student-loan debt they have, and about a quarter of students with federal loans do not even know they have such loans. Many just don't know the loans are federal, but some don't realize they have any loans at all, perhaps because their parents filled out the forms for them.

—Amanda Ripley

We assume that people drop out of college because of the cost. But that's only part of the explanation. Listen closely to former students, and you'll hear them tell stories about bureaucracies losing their paperwork, classes running out of spots, nonsensical tuition bills, and transcript office that don't take credit cards. The customer service is atrocious.

Simply put, many Americans fail to finish college, because many colleges are not designed to be finished. They are designed to enroll students, yes. They are built to garner research funds and accrue status through rankings and the scholarly articles published by faculty. But these things have little to do with making sure students leave prepared to thrive in the modern economy.

—Amanda Ripley

…the Middle Ages, when *university* meant not a physical place but a collection of dons and students unified by a collaborative sense of educational mission.

—Amanda Ripley

Students often have doubts about themselves being college-ready. That manifests itself when they get into college, take a quiz, and get a C and say 'see? I'm not college material.' Then they drop out.

—Dave Jarrat

College is hard. You will struggle. I just want you to know, it's not you. Everybody struggles. Even people whose parents and grandparents went to college.

—Dave Jarrat

In college, the term 'April Showers' is actually the tears you cry while desperately trying to raise your GPA.

—*Yik Yak*

In business school classrooms they construct wonderful models of a nonworld.

—Peter Drucker

Choose a major you love and you'll never work a day in your life because that field probably isn't hiring.

—Unknown

Colleges could reemerge as cultural centers rather than job-prep institutions. The word *school* comes from *skholē*, the Greek word for 'leisure.' We used to teach people to be free. Now we teach them to work.

—Benjamin Hunnicutt

Sex on campus is impossible. Of course, there's some chance it will be awesome. But there is also a chance, alarmingly high these days, that you, Ashley, will wake up full of regret and shame and will eventually get a hysterical e-mail from your mother, who will have seen your distressed post on Facebook and figured out what happened, and will then urge you to go to a counselor's office, where you will sob and be met with a confusing mix of suspicion and comfort, and then you will somehow, suddenly, find yourself spending nights pouring your heart out to a victims' support group until your entire identity on campus gets reduced to 'survivor.'

—Hanna Rosin

For too many parents and their children, acceptance by an elite institution isn't just another challenge, just another goal. A *yes* or *no* from Amherst or the University of Virginia or the University of Chicago is seen as the conclusive measure of a young person's worth, an incontestable harbinger of the accomplishments or disappointments to come. Winner or loser: This is when judgement is made.

—Frank Bruni

The nature of a student's college experience—the work that he or she puts into it, the self-examination that's undertaken, the resourcefulness that's honed—matters more than the name of the institution attended.

—Frank Bruni

Journalism students need to understand it and need a solid background in the liberal arts, in sociology, economics, literature and language, because they won't get it later on.

—Harrison Salisbury

It's been two weeks and my dorm room is dirty. When do the cleaning ladies come by?

—*theChive*

At the college level, other issues are related to substance abuse, because over 60 percent of acquaintance or date rapes occur as a result of some sort of alcohol or other substance abuse.

—Katie Deedrick

I think *Ohio State University* [and other colleges] need an institutionalized attitude change. Judicially, 80 percent of all of our cases are due to, or related to, some kind of alcohol and drug use.

—Lisa Prudhoe

The presumption that students need to be protected rather than challenged in a classroom is at once infantilizing and anti-intellectual.

—*American Association of University Professors*

For college students, to have fun is to party and to party is to drink.

—Scott Berry

This institution will be based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind. For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it.

—Thomas Jefferson upon founding *The University of Virginia*

College athletes used to get a degree in bringing your pencil.

—Ruby Wax

…the infantilization of the American undergraduate, and this character's evolving status in the world of higher learning—less a student than a consumer, someone whose whims and affectations (political, sexual, pseudo-intellectual) must be constantly supported and championed. To understand this change, it helps to think of college not as an institution of scholarly pursuit but as the all-inclusive resort that it has in recent years become—and then to think of the undergraduate who drops out or transfers as an early checkout. Keeping hold of that kid for all four years has become a central obsession of the higher-ed-industrial complex. How do you do it? In part, by importing enough jesters and bards to keep him from meandering away to someplace more entertaining, taking his Pell grant and his 529 plan and his student loans with him.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Mass education, and the rise of colleges as labor-market gatekeepers, have transformed colleges from a place to be imbued with the intangible qualities of character and education…into a place where you go to buy a ticket to a good job.

—Megan McArdle

Let me say no danger and no hardship ever makes me wish to get back to that college life again.

—Joshua Chamberlain

The most dangerous thing about student riots is that adults take them seriously.

—Georges Pompidou

College dean Julie Lythcott-Haims interacted with students who relied on their parents 'in ways that felt, simply, *off*' and who seemed 'existentially impotent.' She detailed the growing mental-health crisis at colleges, and described the brilliant, accomplished students who 'would sit on my couch holding their fragile, brittle parts together, resigned to the fact that this outwardly successful situation was their miserable life.'

—Hanna Rosin

We increasingly treat education as if its primary goal were to teach students to be economically productive rather than to think critically and become knowledgeable and empathetic citizens. This shortsighted focus on profitable skills has eroded our ability to criticize authority, reduced our sympathy with the marginalized and different, and damaged our competence to deal with complex global problems. The loss of these basic capacities jeopardizes the health of democracies and the hope of a decent world.

—Martha Nussbaum

It's crazy that there's no dress code in college, but boys can somehow still do school work.

—Unknown

You must resist efforts to reduce education to a tool of the gross national product. Rather, work to reconnect education to the humanities in order to give students the capacity to be true democratic citizens of their countries and the world.

—Martha Nussbaum

I was a philosophy major with a concentration in yarn.

—Winnie Holzman

We All Have Goals—why is an engagement worth more than a college degree?

—Chantal Denise

Where you go to college will have infinitely less bearing on your fulfillment in life than so much else: The wisdom with which we choose our romantic partners; our interactions with the communities that we inhabit; our generosity toward the families we inherit and the families that we make.

—Frank Bruni

Universities are the cathedrals of the modern age. They shouldn't have to justify their existence by utilitarian criteria.

—David Lodge

You don't need safe-zones to protect your fragile ego! You need big, new, scary ideas that challenge your beliefs and expand your thinking! You need ideas that will offend you, hurt you, hurt your feelings, stomp on your toes, and make you mad! This is necessary for growth and learning! So stop being offended by everything. Stop being a victim. Grow up!

—Larry Winget

The pressure to succeed in high school is all too familiar to me. I distinctly remember being a freshman in high school, overwhelmed by the belief that my GPA over the next four years would make or break my life. My daily thought process was that every homework assignment, every project, every test could be the difference. The difference between a great college and a mediocre college. The difference between success and failure. The difference between happiness and misery…I felt the pressure coming from all around me—my parents, my peers, and worst of all, myself. I felt that I had one shot at high school and that my GPA, SAT score, and college applications were the only barometers of my success.

—Jeremy Lin

Most people elected president in the last 30 years have degrees from the Ivy League —usually *Yale* or *Harvard*….Yet we all know successful people who attended state colleges and universities.

—Ruben Navarrette

Colleges can do quite a bit to prevent teen suicides, and quite easily. How? Be setting a minimum standard for admission (let's say a 3.5 GPA and an 1800 SAT score), and then using a lottery system to randomly select students from among all applicants who qualify. There would be a lot less pressure on students to overachieve, since that would do nothing to improve their chances of admission. And since there are so many high-quality students these days, universities would probably end up with classes that are just as strong as those admitted under the current system.

—Matthew Warburg

If you're suddenly doing something you don't want to do for four years, just so you've got something to fall back on, by the time you come out you don't have that 16-year-old drive any more and you'll spend your life doing something you never wanted to do in the first place.

—Ewan McGregor

Research universities have become the modern counterparts to a natural harbor or a river confluence. In the short term, they lift the economy by bringing in a student population. Over the longer term, they transform a town through the researchers and professors they attract: When you find a Chinese or German physicist in the Dakotas, or a Yale literature Ph.D in California's Central Valley, that person probably works for a university.

—James Fallows

Community colleges can make things worse by loading students with debt without improving their circumstances. Nation-wide, only about 40 percent of those who start at a public community college finish within six years.

—James Fallows

As soon as I had completed the entire course of study at the close of which one is usually received into the ranks of the learned,… I found myself embarrassed with so many doubts and errors that it seemed to me that the effort to instruct myself had no effect other than the increasing discovery of my own ignorance. And yet I was studying at one of the most celebrated Schools in Europe.… I was delighted with the Mathematics because of the certainty of its demonstrations and the evidence of its reasoning.… On the other hand,… I shall not say anything about Philosophy, but that, [although] it has been cultivated for many centuries by the best minds that have ever lived,… nevertheless no single thing is to be found in it which is not subject to dispute, and in consequence which is not dubious.… [A]s to the other sciences, inasmuch as they derive their principles from Philosophy, I judge that one could have built nothing solid on foundations so far from firm.

—René Descartes

This is why, as soon as age permitted me to emerge from the control of my tutors, I entirely quitted the study of letters. And resolving to seek no other knowledge than that which could be found in myself, or at least in the great books of the world, I employed the rest of my youth in travel, in seeing courts and armies, in speaking with men of diverse temperaments and conditions, in collecting varied experiences, in proving myself in the various predicaments in which I was placed by fortune, and under all circumstances bringing my mind to bear on the things which came before it, so that I might derive some profit from my experience.

—René Descartes

Harvard students graduate as great Blockheads as ever, only more proud and self-conceited.

—Benjamin Franklin

A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library

—Shelby Foote

Professor: What inspired you to write this essay?
Me: The due date.

—*theChive*

The summer between high school and college—It's the last gasp of really being a teen.

—Sarah Dessen

Because I made too much money for the girls to get more than meager scholarships, but too little money to afford to pay for their educations in full, and because—another choice—we believed they had earned the right to attend good universities, universities of *their* choice, we found ourselves in a financial vortex. (I am not saying that universities are extortionists, but…universities are extortionists. One daughter's college told me that because I could pay my mortgage, I could afford her tuition.)

—Neal Gabler

Members of the Graduating Class: You who are about to receive your diplomas should also receive an apology from this university -- and a refund of a large portion of the tuition you have paid. You have been cheated, bilked, propagandized and badly educated. Your tuition has been much too costly, for which you can blame the federal government and the avarice of the university.

—George Will

At Brown University last year, administrators fearful that student anxieties might be 'triggered' by a debate about campus 'rape culture' set up a 'safe space' to recuperate from the stress of hearing heterodox opinions. According Judith Shulevitz in The New York Times, 'the room was equipped with cookies, coloring books, bubbles, Play-Doh, calming music, pillows, blankets and a video of frolicking puppies, as well as students and staff members trained to deal with trauma.

—Gene Lyons

Today's students study many fewer hours a week than students did a generation ago—but they are getting higher grades. This, too, is a result of government creating perverse incentives. The government money gives colleges and universities a powerful incentive to admit more and more students. Inevitably, this means more and more students who are marginally qualified—or unqualified. Many of these will pay tuition for a few semesters and then leave school with debt—but no degree. Others will plod along, paying tuition, piling up debt, and eventually getting a degree—but not in four years. You have seen the T-shirts that read: 'College—the best seven years of my life.'

—George Will

Those of you who majored in gender studies—
or women's studies—
or ethnicity studies—
or cinema deconstruction—
or any other of today's academic fads—
to you, I have this advice:
When this commencement ceremony is over and you take off your cap and gown, do not bother looking for a job. Instead, go straight to the unemployment office. This university did not equip you to add value to the American economy.

—George Will

He [Robert Frost] left *Dartmouth*, not because he didn't like hard work, nor because he was restless, but because he found college a mill of being made into 'decent boards,' and he was going to stay a growing tree….No real experience comes, he thinks, when you can take the sting out of it by telling yourself you can use it in a book or otherwise. The experiences that toughen your character or furnish your mind are experiences you are submerged in.

—Sidney Cox

Don't we all know them, those defiant, dreadlocked young lovelies with their useless degrees in studio art, experimental fiction, modern dance, and gender studies, lactose-intolerant and unemployable?

--Linda Hirshman

A college education is not a quantitative body of memorized knowledge salted away in a card file. It is a taste for knowledge, a taste for philosophy, if you will; a capacity to explore, to question, to perceive relationships, between fields of knowledge and experience.

—A. Whitney Griswold

We've got millions of people looking for work and millions of jobs that nobody wants. College graduates are a trillion dollars in debt and struggling to find employment in their field of study. Meanwhile, 88 percent of all the available jobs don't require a four-year degree. They require specific training. So what do we do? We push a four-year degree like it's some sort of a Golden Ticket. We remove vocational education from high schools at the time we need it most. We're lending money we don't have to kids who can't pay it back, educating them for jobs that no longer exist. I'm no expert, but I'd say that's profoundly disconnected.

—Mike Rowe

For black boys, there seemed to be only two roads—college or jail.

--Ta-Nehisi Coates

Quibble with the details all you want, but there's no escaping the conclusion that most Americans aren't smart enough to do something we are told is an essential step toward succeeding in our new, brain-centric economy—namely, get through four years of college with moderately good grades.

—David H. Freedman

Elementary school: 30 friends. Middle school: 20 friends. High school: 10 friends. College: 3 real friends.

—*peanutbutterquotes.com*

You must live feverishly in a library. Colleges are not going to do any good unless you are raised and live in a library every day of your life.

—Ray Bradbury

If it is noticed that much of my outside work concerns itself with libraries, there is an extremely good reason for this. I think that the better part of my education, almost as important as that secured in the schools and the universities, came from libraries.

—Irving Stone

The basic purpose of a liberal arts education is to liberate the human being to exercise his or her potential to the fullest.

—Barbara M. White

An awful lot of…young women at our very best colleges are being traumatized by what takes place during so much…mindless, drunken partying when they're steeped in alcohol, which brings out the least engaging aspects of their young selves.

--Caitlin Flanagan

Academic prestige goes to those who can write in a dense style, difficult to understand, on a topic of little or no practical value.

--William O'Toole

So long as you write what you wish to write, that is all that matters, and whether it matters for ages or only for hours, nobody can say. But to sacrifice a hair of the head of your vision, a shade of its colour, in deference to some Headmaster with a silver pot in his hand or to some professor with a measuring-rod up his sleeve, is the most abject treachery.

--Virginia Woolf

The only trouble here is they won't let us study enough. They are so afraid we shall break down and you know the reputation of the College is at stake, for the question is, can girls get a college degree without ruining their health?

—Ellen Henrietta
Swallow Richards
(1862)

It's not a college degree that makes a writer. The great thing is to have a story to tell.

--Polly Adler

I think I succeeded as a writer because I did not come out of an English department. I used to write in the chemistry department. And I wrote some good stuff. If I had been in the English department, the prof would have looked at my short stories, congratulated me on my talent, and then showed me how Joyce or Hemingway handled the same elements of the short story. The prof would have placed me in competition with the greatest writers of all time, and that would have ended my writing career.

--Kurt Vonnegut

The average middle-class kid (as we were called back then, meaning: a white kid whose parents owned a house and whose father was steadily employed) was not burnishing dreams of Princeton. Go to class, show up for the SAT, fill out the applications, and then enroll in the best. or the most interesting, or the farthest from home, or the cheapest college that lets you in. We didn't need much help from our parents to do those things.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Professional-class parents and their children are tightly bound to each other in the relentless pursuit of admission to a fancy college. A kid on that track can't really separate from her parents, as their close involvement in this shared goal is essential. Replicating the social class across a generation is a joint project. That's why it's so hard to break into the professional stratum of society: The few available spots are being handed down within families. From this has flowed a benefit that parents love—deep emotional closeness throughout adolescence, with no shadow of a future parting.

—Caitlin Flanagan

The point of college binge drinking today is that there are no limits. Blacking out isn't a mistake; blacking out is the goal.

—Caitlin Flanagan

After an oddly moving blast of 'Pomp and Circumstance' on a hot morning, there it is: childhood's end. The summer is a strange, liminal time, and then the cars are loaded up, the airplanes boarded, and the parents stand on green lawns in college towns and say goodbye. Now the teenagers are far from home, with only the remembered counsel of the people who love them most to help them negotiate what lies ahead.

—Caitlin Flanagan

College drinking, including extreme heavy drinking, has been a tradition since the 19th century. Because of this, it can be hard to convince middle-aged people that something has changed. But the consistent—at times urgent, at times resigned—report from college officials is that something has gone terribly awry and that huge numbers of students regularly transform the American campus into a college-themed spin-off of *The Walking Dead*. They vomit endlessly, destroy property, become the victims or perpetrators of sexual events ranging from the unpleasant to the criminal, get rushed off in ambulances, and join the ever-growing waiting lists for counseling. Depression and anxiety go hand in hand with heavy drinking, and both are at epidemic proportions on campus.

—Caitlin Flanagan

High-school athletes are less likely to use drugs and more likely to drink alcohol than their fellow students. Colleges complain like hell about binge drinking, but their admissions policies favor the kind of kids most likely to take part in it.

—Caitlin Flanagan

A study published in 2011 in the *American Journal of Health Education* found that 77 percent of college freshmen who 'drink to get drunk'—and what today's college student calls being 'drunk' is oftentimes something an expert would define as being in a blackout.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Black students drink less than all other races on campus. Why? The question hardly merits an answer. Drinking while black can be downright dangerous, as local police officers tend to take a dim view of young black people breaking laws.

—Caitlin Flanagan

What are these kids really vomiting up every weekend at their fancy colleges? Is it really just 12 shots of apple-flavored vodka? Or is it a set of values, an attitude toward the self and toward others, that has become increasingly hard for them to stomach?

—Caitlin Flanagan

For too long, history has been disparaged as a 'soft' subject by social scientists offering spurious certainty. We believe it is time for a new and rigorous 'applied history'—an attempt to illuminate current challenges and choices by analyzing precedents and historical analogues. We not only want to see applied history incorporated into the Executive Office of the President, alongside economic expertise; we also want to see it developed as a discipline in its own right at American universities.

—Graham Allison and
Niall Ferguson

Princeton—an idyllic movie-set-like campus, that delicious/rancid scent of privilege and exclusivity, over-the-top characters ranging from Albert Einstein to one of the Menendez brothers—obviously such a place could exist only in the imagination.

—Curtis Sittenfeld

The 'Five Minute University'—in which students would learn in five minutes 'what the average college graduate remembers' five years after graduation. The cost is $20, which covers tuition, cap and gown rental, and snacks.

—Father Guido Sarducci

My advice is to stay out of journalism schools that don't stress a strong liberal arts background. The who, what, when, where, how and why formula in journalism will serve you well so long as you have an understanding or a foundation that is rooted in an understanding of the economic, political and social issues and problems of the world.

--Charlayne Hunter-
Gault

The one thing that helped students do well in all college science was having taken an advanced high school math class. That undermines a commonly held belief that math training is not particularly important or helpful for the study of biology.

—Rick Weiss

A professor can never better distinguish himself in his work than by encouraging a clever pupil, for the true discoverers are among them, as comets amongst the stars.

--Linnaeus Bruner

James A. Garfield said that a log with a student on one end and Mark Hopkins, his old teacher, on the other end was his ideal college. The point in it all is that personal contact and direct interest in the individual student by an instructor of lofty character is the main thing in any institution of learning.

--F. S. Grocer

Climb high
Climb far
Your goal the sky
Your aim the star.

--*Inscription on Hopkins Gate at Williams College*

That's what we're all about at *Northwestern*—do it well while you're here and do it exceptionally well even after you leave.

--Drew Pariano

The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.

—Confucius

Popular college courses reflect students' changing values. There is a new emphasis on ethics and values, the effects of science and technology on society, love and justice.

—Jerry Gaff

An amazing thing I saw in the *New York Times* was that at college graduations in the last month, the most popular speakers have been television anchormen and anchorwomen. When I went to school, at graduation you wanted to see a famous poet, a famous theologian, a famous philosopher. And now they want to see some idiot who reads the news off the TelePrompTer.

—James Warren

When I was in college, all the pretty women were in the theatre, so I auditioned for a play.

—Judd Nelson

I think everyone should go to college and get a degree and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cabdriver. Then they would really be educated.

—Al McGuire

I began my education at a very early age; in fact, right after I left college.

—Winston Churchill

Changing a college curriculum is like moving a graveyard—you never know how many friends the dead have until you try to move them!

—Calvin Coolidge

The American university has become the final stage of the most all encompassing initiation rite the world has ever known. No society in history has been able to survive without ritual or myth, but ours is the first which has needed such a dull, protracted, destructive, and expensive initiation into its myth. The contemporary world civilization is also the first one which has found it necessary to rationalize its fundamental initiation ritual in the name of education. We cannot begin a reform of education unless we first understand that neither individual learning nor social equality can be enhanced by the ritual of schooling. We cannot go beyond the consumer society unless we first understand that obligatory public schools inevitably reproduce such a society, no matter what is taught in them.

— Ivan Illich

The arts are called liberal, because they enable those who practise them to live in freedom.

--Tirso de Molina

For too long, history has been disparaged as a 'soft' subject by social scientists offering spurious certainty. We believe it is time for a new and rigorous 'applied history'—an attempt to illuminate current challenges and choices by analyzing precedents and historical analogues. We not only want to see applied history incorporated into the Executive Office of the President, alongside economic expertise; we also want to see it developed as a discipline in its own right at American universities.

—Graham Allison and
Niall Ferguson

A lot of the stuff that we teach in K-12—and I know from having been a college professor, a lot of the stuff we teach in college—has a shelf life now of about a year and a half. And you aren't going to probably remember it, and it's probably out of date anyway.

—Charles R. Knapp

It is one thing to take as a given that approximately 70 percent of an entering high school freshman class will not attend college, but to assign a particular child to a curriculum designed for that 70 percent closes off for that child the opportunity to attend college.

—James S. Coleman

Life is my college. May I graduate well, and earn some honors!

—Louisa May Alcott

Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.

—Nora Ephron

The single most important thing we can do to help students succeed after high school is to provide a challenging high school curriculum. Why? Because the biggest contributor to success in college isn't a student's SAT or ACT score, nor is it GPA or rank in class. Rather, the single best predictor of college success is the quality and intensity of a student's high school curriculum.

—Patte Barth and
Kati Haycock

By vacating a curriculum grounded in the classical culture of the Western world, American schools and colleges were depriving citizens of their cultural traditions and contributing to the decline of Western civilization.

—Walter Lippmann

The skills needed for college and work in the 21st century are essentially the same skills needed in the 20th century, but with the addition of technological know-how.

—Diane Ravitch

If a man is a fool, you don't train him out of being a fool by sending him to university. You merely turn him into a trained fool, ten times more dangerous.

—Desmond Bagley

We are made little wiser, tho much more vain and conceited in the Universitys.... The University is the most fertile Nursery of Prejudices, whereof the greatest is, that we think there to learn every thing, when in reality we are taught nothing; only talk by Rote with mighty assurance the precarious Notions of our Systems, which if deny'd by another, we have not a word further to say out of our common Road, nor any Arguments left, to satisfy the Opposer or our selves.

—John Toland (1690)

No one can become really educated without having pursued some study in which he took no interest. For it is part of education to interest ourselves in subjects for which we have no aptitude.

--T. S. Eliot

Somehow the notion has got abroad that education is confined to reservations as were the Indians....The biggest reservations are called universities and it is too generally assumed that they have a sort of monopoly on knowledge and the facilities for acquiring it. What they really have is a vast number of descriptions which are called books and a somewhat lesser number of describers called teachers. We can never have real education, or a self-perpetuating culture, until we get beyond the description and the describer to the things described. In short, education needs to be got off the reservations.

--Walter Prescott Webb

We are shut up in school and college recitation rooms for ten or fifteen years, and come out at last with a bellyfull of words and do not know a thing.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

His brother has a Ph.D, his wife has an M.A., his daughter has a B.A. He's the only one with a J.O.B.

—Unknown

The advantage of a classical education is that it enables you to despise the wealth which it prevents you from achieving.

--Russell Green

For a man to attain to an eminent degree in learning costs him time, watching, hunger, nakedness, dizziness in the head, weakness in the stomach, and other inconveniences.

—Miguel de Cervantes

The only question in education reform that's worth anything is this: What are you doing to prepare these kids for college? If I can get a kid to read Shakespeare and laugh at the right places, I can get him to college. That's all that matters to me.

--Michael Piscal

The college graduate is presented with a sheepskin to cover his intellectual nakedness.

—Robert M. Hutchins

The heads of leading American universities say that if they selected applicants based on grades alone, their student bodies would be 100 percent Asian.

—Paul Achleitner

The truth is, I was afraid the day I walked into Stanford. And I was afraid the day I walked out.

—Carly Fiorina

One should be aware of such false goals as merely making high grades. A high grade may reflect your competence in a particular subject, or it may only indicate your proficiency in gradesmanship, a skill in selecting easy courses or an ability to charm teachers. No harm in that, of course, but not at the cost of overlooking the true justification for spending your irreplaceable time in the classroom. As you progress through life, your college grades will become less and less meaningful; your need to learn will ever be with you and your skill in LEARNING HOW TO LEARN will always be important.

—Dr. Arnold O. Beckman

75% of freshmen entering a two-year college required remedial work in English, math, or both. 60% of freshmen in less selective four-year colleges required some remediation work.

—*National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education* (2015)

You don't go to university so you can punch a clock. You go to university so you can be in a position to make a difference.

—Janet Napolitano

Commencement is when the college students who learned all the answers discover that there are a new set of questions.

--Unknown

Old memories
Of freshman hazing,
Pre-game rallies
With bonfires blazing...
Memories of
Weekend dances
Blend with those
Of light romances...
Memories of study hall
And quiet walks
Upon the mall...
Such memories,
Fond souvenirs
Are ribbon and bow
Binding schooltime years.

--Mary R. Hurley

Being a high school graduate is associated with a 40 percent lower probability of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; a 1 percent lower probability of receiving housing assistance; and a 19 percent lower probability of receiving food stamps. For college graduates, the probability reductions are 62 percent, 35 recent, and 54 percent.

—Henry M. Levine

I saved my course notes from graduate school. With the exception of statistics, almost everything I was taught is no longer true. Therefore, what did I learn?...to respect change in knowledge and to study new information as a way of professional life.

--Richard Hamming

Part of the college application was directed to the applicant's parents, and one of the questions was, 'Would you consider your child to be a leader or a follower?' After much deliberation, the father wrote that he felt his child, although very much an individual, was really more of a follower.
Not long after, a letter of acceptance arrived from the college, accompanied by a note from the director of admissions, welcoming his child. 'We feel he'll fit in especially well,' the letter went on, 'as he will be the only follower in a class of 412 leaders.'

—*Speaker's Idea File*

Jim McMahon, professional quarterback, when asked what it was like to go to Brigham Young University: 'They let us chase girls, but they wouldn't let us catch them.'

—Henry Ehrlich

Number of tenured college and university professors who wish they'd gone into a less demanding line of work: 0

—Unknown

The best university that can be recommended to a man of ideas is the gauntlet of the mobs.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

How unfortunate for us personally, professionally, and socially that all high school and college students are not required to study ethics.

—Grant Wiggins

When we sent our first child off to school I experienced a jarring moment, an epiphany. I had been teaching young children for many years, advising parents on a wide range of issues, including the best and most painless ways to separate from their youngsters at school. When my own time came, I found that all my good advice to others was impossible to follow myself.…I felt like a midwife friend of mine who had assisted in the births of hundreds of babies before her own first child was born. Int he middle of labor she cried out, 'I've told hundreds of women, 'you can do it,' and it can't be done.'

—William Ayers

Gentlemen, you are now about to embark on a course of studies which will occupy you for two years. Together, they form a noble adventure. But I would like to remind you of an important point. Nothing that you will learn in the course of your studies will be of the slightest possible use to you in after life, save only this, that if you work hard and intelligently you should be able to detect when a man is talking rot, and that, in my view, is the main, if not the sole, purpose of education.

—John Alexander Smith,
Speech to *Oxford University*
Students, 1914

Less than 10 percent of honor students at American colleges even consider going into government.

—*Volcker Commission on the Public Servic*e

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE FINALS

Twas the night before finals,
And all through the college,
The students were praying
For last minutes knowledge.

Most were quite sleepy
But none touched their beds
While visions of essays
Danced in their heads.

In my own room,
I had been pacing,
And dreading exams
I soon would be facing.

My roommate was speechless,
His nose in his books,
And my comments to him
Drew unfriendly looks.

I drained all the coffee,
And brewed a new pot,
No longer caring
That my nerves were all shot.

I stared at my notes
But my thoughts were all muddy
My eyes went ablur.
I just couldn't study.

'Some pizza might help,'
I thought with a shiver
But each place that I called
Refused to deliver.

I'd nearly concluded
That life was too cruel,
With futures depending
On grades had in school.

When all of a sudden,
Our door opened wide,
And Patron Saint Put it Off
Ambled inside.

His spirit was careless,
His manner was mellow
He looked straight at me,
And started to bellow:

'What kind of student
Would make such a fuss
To toss back at teachers
What they tossed at us?'

'On Cliff Notes! On Crib Notes!
On Last Year's Exams!
On Wingit and Slingit,
And Last Minute Crams!'

His message delivered,
He vanished from sight,
But we heard him laughing
Outside in the night.

'Your teachers have pegged you,
So just do your best.
Happy Finals to All,
And to all a good test.'

--www.laughnet.net

For students today, only 10 percent of children from working-class families graduate from college by the age of 24 as compared to 58 percent of upper-middle-class and wealthy families.

—Patrick J. Kennedy

Now I Lay Me
Down to Study,
I Pray the Lord I
Won't Go Nutty.

If I Should Fail to
Learn this Junk,
I Pray the Lord
I Will Not Flunk.

But If I Do,
Don't Pity Me at All,
Just Lay My Bones
In the Study Hall.

Tell My Prof
I Did My Best,
Then Pile My
Books upon My Chest.

Now I Lay Me
Down to Rest,
And Pray I'll Pass
Tomorrow's Test.

If I Should Die Before I Wake,
That's One less Test I'll Have to Take.

—Unknown

Universities exist to transmit knowledge and understanding of ideas and values to students not to provide entertainment for spectators or employment for athletes.

—Milton Friedman

For some students, especially in the sciences, the knowledge gained in college may be directly relevant to graduate study. For almost all students, a liberal arts education works in subtle ways to create a web of knowledge that will illumine problems and enlighten judgment on innumerable occasions in later life.

—Derek Bok

As I told the students every time I visited a campus, you are the director of your own movie, and if you aren't enjoying what you are doing, change it.

—Gary Johnson

I am often amazed at how much more capability and enthusiasm for science there is among elementary school youngsters than among college students.

—Carl Sagan

Students teach all sorts of things but most importantly they make explicit the courage that it takes to be a learner, the courage it takes to open yourself to the transformative power of real learning and that courage I am exposed to almost every day at MIT and that I'm deeply grateful for.

—Junot Diaz

In K-12, almost everybody goes to local schools. Universities are a bit different because kids actually do pick the university. The bizarre thing, though, is that the merit of university is actually how good the students going in are: the SAT scores of the kids going in.

—Bill Gates

Community colleges are one of America's great social inventions a gateway to the future for first time students looking for an affordable college education, and for mid-career students looking to get ahead in the workplace.

—Barbara Mikulski

You can't have a university without having free speech, even though at times it makes us terribly uncomfortable. If students are not going to hear controversial ideas on college campuses, they're not going to hear them in America. I believe it's part of their education.

—Donna Shalala

Our approach to education has remained largely unchanged since the Renaissance: From middle school through college, most teaching is done by an instructor lecturing to a room full of students, only some of them paying attention.

—Daphne Koller

What use could the humanities be in a digital age? University students focusing on the humanities may end up, at least in their parents' nightmares, as dog-walkers for those majoring in computer science. But, for me, the humanities are not only relevant but also give us a toolbox to think seriously about ourselves and the world.

—Nicholas Kristof

Nobody ever told me, 'Art is this.' This was good luck in a way because I would have had to spend half of my life forgetting everything that I had been told, which is what happens with most students in schools of fine arts.

—Fernando Botero

A telephone survey says that 51 percent of college students drink until they pass out at least once a month. The other 49 percent didn't answer the phone.

—Craig Kilborn

Every year, some 65,000 high school students—many of them star students and leaders in their communities—are unable to go to college or get a good job because they have no legal status.

—Gary Locke

There's something melancholy about professors because they're chronically abandoned. They form these lovely relationships with students and then the students leave and the professors stay the same. It's like they're chronically abandoned.

—Josh Radnor

Students undergo a conversion in the third year of medical school—not pre-clinical to clinical, but pre-cynical to cynical.

—Abraham Verghese

Colleges and universities, for all the benefits they bring, accomplish far less for their students than they should. Many students graduate without being able to write well enough to satisfy their employers... reason clearly or perform competently in analyzing complex, non-technical problems.

—Derek Bok

In the universities, cheap, vulnerable labor means adjuncts and graduate students.

—Noam Chomsky

When National Guardsmen shot four unarmed students at Kent State, virtually the entire system of higher education shuddered and stopped.

—Nancy Gibbs

Imagine filling a college with the first 1,000 students to get perfect SATs. Whatever the racial composition of that class would be, the notion seems absurd because we know that college in America is supposed to be about creating citizens and leaders in a diverse nation.

—Eric Liu

The college that takes students with modest entering abilities and improves their abilities substantially contributes more than the school that takes very bright students and helps them develop only modestly.

—Derek Bok

People question what I thought of *Oxford*. Students used to talk about the '*Oxford* bubble' because the place can make you feel cut off from the rest of the world. I would forget there were places like London that were not centered round libraries and essays.

—Samantha Shannon

Not many college students know what they want to do.

—Andie MacDowell

Less than one percent of U.S. college students attend Ivy League schools, and these students don't necessarily reflect the world's brightest and most capable thought leaders but, rather, the people who've been afforded the most opportunities to succeed.

—Sebastian Thrun

It's fashionable with the Sarah Palin set to attack Harvard and treat its graduates as elitists. But if you spend any time on campus, you see students drawn from all over the world—an astonishing number these days with roots in Asia—whose chief assets are brainpower and hard work.

—David Ignatius

I believe that the future is determined by the great public universities. They educate 80 percent of the students and make the American Dream available.

—Gordon Gee

College has been oversold. It has been oversold to students who end up dropping out or graduating with degrees that don't help them very much in the job market. It also has been oversold to the taxpayers, who foot the bill for subsidies that do nothing to encourage innovation and economic growth.

—Alex Tabarrok

When I went to drama school, I knew I was at least as talented as other students, but because I was a black man and I wasn't pretty, I knew I would have to work my butt off to be the best that I would be, and to be noticed.

—Lance Reddick

In my day the principal concerns of university students were sex, smoking dope, rioting and learning. Learning was something you did only when the first three weren't available.

—Bill Bryson

The problems on campus life today are not about free speech. They are about how the students have absolutely nothing to do with their lives but sit and listen to lectures, find the best parties to attend, and otherwise discover first-world problems to stew about and protest. That's the root of the problem. This is not a commercial environment where people are incentivized to find value in each other. Campuses have become completely artificial 4-year holding tanks for infantilized kids with zero experience in actual life in which people find ways to get along. These students are not serving each other in a market exchange, and very few have worked at day in their lives, so their default is to find some offense and protest. It's all they've been taught to do and all they know how to do. Idle hands and parents' money = trouble.

—Jeffrey Tucker

The compulsive overachievement of today's elite college students—the sense that they need to keep running as fast as they can—is not the only thing that keeps them from forming the deeper relationships that might relieve their anguish. Something more insidious is operating, too: a resistance to vulnerability, a fear of looking like the only one who isn't capable of handling the pressure. These are young people who have always succeeded at everything, in part by projecting the confidence that they always will. Now, as they get to college, the stakes are higher and the competition fiercer. Everybody thinks that they are the only one who's suffering, so nobody says anything, so everybody suffers. Everyone feels like a fraud; everybody thinks that everybody else is smarter than they are.

—William Deresiewicz

This was becoming an increasingly common fixture here on campus, students protesting some sort of perceived injustice. It wasn't too surprising; righteous indignation was practically the calling card of a college student. They were experts at single-mindedly championing any cause they saw as deserving, but having few practical ideas on how to really change things.

—Julia J. Gibbs

The idea that students don't know how to write clearly and precisely is as old as school itself, probably, but lately it seems as if students no longer know how to read either. It is true on my campus and from I can gather, on many other college campuses. The students understand words, sentences—they are not illiterate—but they don't seem to grasp the reasons for reading. They seem baffled when asked to take two thoughts, connect them, and form something new. They read James Baldwin or Henry David Thoreau and their primary reaction seems to be, 'Okay, now I've ready that. I'm done.' As if the only goal in reading was to have looked at every word.

—Dinty W. Moore

Just don't take any class where you have to read BEOWULF.

—Woody Allen

She had always thought applying to college would be exciting. Living away from home, meeting so many new people, Learning new things, making a few poor life decisions....

—Maureen Johnson

We've reached a point in human history where higher education no longer works. As a result of technology, higher education in its traditional college setting no longer works. It will never be effective or progressive enough to keep up with the growing needs of employers who look to college institutions for their future employees.

I can appreciate the good intent the college system set out to achieve. For previous generations, the formula actually worked. Students enrolled into universities that were affordable, they gained marketable skills and they earned good jobs. Since there was a proven track record of success, parents instilled the value of college in their children thinking they would achieve the same success story they did, but unfortunately Wall Street was watching. Wall Street, the federal government and the college system ganged up and skyrocketed the cost of tuition to record highs. This was easy to do because not only did they have posters blanketing high schools showing kids what a loser they would be if they didn't go to college, they also had Mom and Dad at home telling them the same thing.

This system—spending 4+ years pursuing a college education when the world is changing at the speed of light—no longer works and it's not fixable. We now have the biggest employer's market in human history, where employers have their pick of the litter, and because of this employees will get paid less and less and benefits will continue to erode.

—Michael Price

One of the professors told me last week that he feels bad teaching with the way the economy is now. 'What's the point?' he said. 'Kids aren't getting jobs.' You never hear faculty talk that way. He did.

—Daniel Amory

On the first day of a college you will worry about how will you do inside the college, and at the last day of a college you will wonder what will you do outside the college.

—Amit Kalantri

I used my textbooks ONCE in these four years; it was as a plate for a waffle.

—*BuzzFeed.com*

In engineering colleges, they have seating plans...And Students have cheating plans.

—Lovely Goyal

Don't you know that's what college is about...students spending years gathering useless information they'll never use again, going hopelessly into debt, just so they feel smarter than the rest of their family? I mean, that's why I worked so hard to get here, anyway.

—A. L. Jackson

Before I started (college), that's the advice advice my dad gave me. He said to pick classes based on the teacher whenever you can, not the subject...his point was that good teachers are priceless. They inspire you, they entertain you, and you end up learning a ton even when you don't know it.

—Nicholas Sparks

I hadn't gone to Andover, or Horace Mann or Eton. My high school had been the average kind, and I'd been the best student there. Such was not the case at Eli. Here, I was surrounded by geniuses. I'd figured out early in my college career that there were people like Jenny and Brandon and Lydia and Josh—truly brilliant, truly luminous, whose names would appear in history books that my children and grandchildren would read, and there were people like George and Odile—who through beauty and charm and personality would make the cult of celebrity their own. And then there were people like me. People who, through the arbitrary wisdom of the admissions office, might share space with the big shots for four years, might be their friends, their confidantes, their associates, their lovers—but would live a life well below the global radar. I knew it, and over the years, I'd come to accept it.
And I understood that it didn't make them any better than me.

—Diana Peterfreund

If the college you visit has a bookstore filled with t-shirts rather than books, find another college.

—R. Albert Mohler Jr.

School children, who have enjoyed reading a romance or a detective thriller or a novel about terror and conquest, make the invariable mistake of studying literature in the college. They make the mistake of learning theory in place of art; they acquire impediments in their own enjoyment of the books by allowing a set of theories to govern their own reading.

—Anuradha Bhattacharyya

For me, purpose and meaning are given to university service because I believe: That the public school system, including the colleges and universities, provides cohesiveness in American life. Schools are the neutral ground where partisans on all other issues—religious, economic, political, social—may join in a common effort for furthering the public welfare.

--David Dodds Henry

From 1975 to 2006, the proportion of women with at least a college degree increased from 19 to 34 percent. During the same period the corresponding percentage for men increased from 27 to 29 percent. Many experts are predicting that women will account for 60 percent of college graduates in the coming years.

—Kay S. Hymowitz

Male students tend to be less engaged on campus and less likely to join a campus organization. According to studies…women are more likely to participate in class discussion and tend to communicate more regularly with faculty, often resulting in a more promising employment outlook after school. It has been well documented in recent years that women tend to graduate with higher GPAs than their male counterparts. As management philosophy shifts, women are also poised to take on more leadership roles in corporate governance.

—Nathaniel Clarkson

According to a recent findings by *Gallup*, fraternity membership is linked to higher well-being and better work engagement for college graduates. 'The 16% of college graduates who were members of Greek organizations are more likely to report being emotionally supported and having experiential and deep learning activities while in college, all of which likely have contributed to their higher work engagement and well-being,' the report said. The findings further concluded that fraternity and sorority member are more likely to be engaged with their organizations and more enthusiastic about their work.

—Nathaniel Clarkson

If you're suddenly doing something you don't want to do for four years, just so you've got something to fall back on, by the time you come out you don't have that 16-year-old drive any more and you'll spend your life doing something you never wanted to do in the first place.

—Ewan McGregor

High school me: A's gets ya paid.
College me: Fuck it, C's & D's gets degrees.

—*@gmfduke1*

I am my own University, I my own Professor.

—Sylvia Ashton-Warner

If you're suddenly doing something you don't want to do for four years, just so you've got something to fall back on, by the time you come out you don't have that 16-year-old drive any more and you'll spend your life doing something you never wanted to do in the first place.

—Ewan McGregor

Our American professors like their literature clear and cold and pure and very dead.

--Sinclair Lewis

It is a melancholy fact that in spite of the millions of dollars expended upon our schools, grammar and high, upon our colleges and our public libraries, a genuine love of literature is imparted to only a very small portion of our population.

--Sam Walter Foss

The narrator of Mary McCarthy's *The Company She Keeps* could be seen as 'enslaved because she persists in looking for her identity in a man.' Similarly, Miss McCarthy's *The Group* could serve to illustrate 'what happens to women who have been educated at first-rate women's colleges—taught philosophy and history—and then were consigned to breast-feeding and gourmet cooking.'

—Joan Didion

I'm so disturbed when my women students behave as though they can only read women, or black students behave as though they can only read blacks, or white students behave as though they can only identify with a white writer.

—Bell Hooks

All that a university or final highest school can do for us, is still what the first school began doing—teach us to read.

--Thomas Carlyle

We hear a lot these days of our being at the cultural mercy of the movies, radio and TV; that we are in a mind-bath of evanescent, visual-aural influences; and that the studied, Gutenberg reading line is passing from the scene. From the variety of expressions of experience and the individuation of language and style, it could be argued that these writers are less affected by mass electronic media than Marshall McLuhan might imagine. Writing and reading are still going on, especially in the colleges, and it looks as if such activities will continue.

--Whit and Hallie Burnett

It worries me that undergrads and high school students are forced into books they aren't ready for, like Faulkner's, and then they are afraid of putting their toes in the water again.

—Alice McDermott

The poet, as everyone knows, must strike his individual note sometime between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five. He may hold it a long time or a short time, but it is then that he must strike it or never. School and college have been conducted with the almost express purpose of keeping him busy with something else till the danger of his ever creating anything is past.

--Robert Frost

Rarest of the real poets are born poets. They are the oddballs, not the professors.

—James Broughton

It was a common complaint amongst the Arts students that their library was in dire need of refurbishment. To call the old building shabby chic was being kind. It didn't have automated stacks or self-service machines like the Management and Sciences library the other side of campus and the carpets and bookcases looked like they were probably the Victorian originals.

But on days like this one, where the springtime sunshine streamed in through the high windows and set the dust motes dancing, Harriet sincerely felt that those BSc lot could stuff their vending machines and state of the art study pods. The Old Library was clearly suited for those who had poetry in their souls, rather than numbers in their heads.

—Erin Lawless

If one cannot state a matter clearly enough so that even an intelligent twelve-year-old can understand it, one should remain within the cloistered walls of the university and laboratory until one has a better grasp of one's subject.

--Margaret Mead

There is a grace cometh from hearing...and so the ear thrills to the rustle of the leaves....It is the sound of all sounds the most companionable, this whispering of the leaves of books. You who love them have heard it in the quietness of your room, and you have been comforted; or, perchance, in the wizard silence of *Bodley's Library at Oxford*, where it has gone up to the painted beams as incense of sound; or in the echoing space of the vast rotunda of the cosmopolis of books in Bloomsbury....Most pleasing and most comfortable of sounds, so that book-lovers who hear it are made confident and rapt beyond themselves. Happy the man...that knows this joyful music.

--Holbrook Jackson

At eleven-thirty on a rainy Thursday morning we counted the persons in the north hall of the reading-room in the Library. There were one hundred and seven men and fourteen women. Our conclusions, interesting, and well thought out, were: men are more scholarly, curious, persistent, indifferent to weather, romantic, earnest, intellectual, early-rising, conscientious, creative, sober, and unoccupied, than women. But we may be wrong.

--E. B. White

The atmosphere of libraries, lecture rooms and laboratories is dangerous to those who shut themselves up in them too long. It separates us from reality like a fog.

--Alexis Carrel

'Ah college years, those were the days. Pure freedom ... leaving home for the first time…the parties…'
'What about the tutorials, the lectures, the large building with all the books called the 'library'?'
'Is that what those were?' Gerry blithely replied.

—E. A. Bucchianeri

When Sherry Turkle, the MIT clinical psychologist and author, interviewed college students, they said texting was causing friction in their face-to-face interactions. While hanging out with friends they'd be texting surreptitiously at the same time, pretending to maintain eye contact but mentally somewhere else. The new form of communication was fun, sure, but it was colliding with—and eroding—the old one.

—Clive Thompson

Many professors and gurus who are fantastic lecturers are somehow awful teachers. When their 'students' leave, they don't know how to apply anything they heard in the lecture. Given the lecturer's brilliance, the students assume they are the problem and give up.

--Scott Berkun

When I die, I hope it is during a lecture. The transition from life to death will be so slight it will hardly be perceptible.

—Richard Feynman

The longer I live, the more I have come to value the gift of eloquence. Every American youth, if he desires for any purpose to get influence over his countrymen in an honorable way, will seek to become a good public speaker.

--George F. Hoar

It took twenty of us working twenty hours a day, six days a week for an entire year, to accomplish what one *Dartmouth* student now can do in one afternoon.

--John Kemeny
Dartmouth College
president and
an architect of
the A-bomb, on the
$15 calculator

Leaders in China and India realize that science and technology lead to success and wealth. But many countries in the West graduate students into the unemployment line by teaching skills that were necessary to live in 1950.

—Michio Kaku

Pioneered by the ancient Greeks, developed by medieval Muslims, systematized in the Renaissance, perfected in the Enlightenment and patented by the *Dupont Corporation*, the scientific method improved on man's previous tradition: making s**t up. The scientific method added the crucial step of experimentation, using real-world data to test a hypothesis that, if proven, would be accepted by scientists as a theory, which could then be used to get a grant, or in some cases, tenure.

--*Earth (The Book) A*
Visitor's Guide to
the Human Race

Every time a student walks past a really urgent, expressive piece of architecture that belongs to his college, it can help reassure him that he does have that mind, does have that soul.

—-Louis Kahn

Today, over half of China's undergraduate degrees are in math, science technology and engineering, yet only 16 percent of America's undergraduates pursue these schools.

—Cathy McMorris
Rodgers

There was no room for dust devils in the laws of physics, as least in the rigid form in which they were usually taught. There is a kind of unspoken collusion going on in mainstream science education: you get your competent but bored, insecure and hence stodgy teacher talking to an audience divided between engineering students, who are going to be responsible for making bridges that won't fall down or airplanes that won't suddenly plunge vertically into the ground at six hundred miles an hour, and who by definition get sweaty palms and vindictive attitudes when their teacher suddenly veers off track and begins raving about wild and completely nonintuitive phenomena; and physics students, who derive much of their self-esteem from knowing that they are smarter and morally purer than the engineering students, and who by definition don't want to hear about anything that makes no fucking sense. This collusion results in the professor saying: (something along the lines of) dust is heavier than air, therefore it falls until it hits the ground. That's all there is to know about dust. The engineers love it because they like their issues dead and crucified like butterflies under glass. The physicists love it because they want to think they understand everything. No one asks difficult questions. And outside the windows, the dust devils continue to gambol across the campus.

—Neal Stephenson

This bright-looking sophomore came up after a lecture and said she'd never realized the 13 Colonies were all on the East Coast. We've been raising generations of young Americans who are, by and large, historically illiterate.

—Davide McCullough

The teaching of any science, for purposes of liberal education, without linking it with social progress and teaching its social significance, is a crime against the student mind. It is like teaching a child how to pronounce words but not what they mean.

--Vernon Carter

Asian countries produce eight times as many engineering bachelors as the United States, and the number of U.S. students graduating at the masters and PhD levels in these areas is declining.

—Mark Kennedy

A report released by the *Partnership for a New American Economy* and the *Partnership for New York City* predicts that by 2018, there will be 800,000 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs in the United States that require a master's degree or higher - and only around 550,000 American-graduates with this training.

—Marvin Ammori

Engineering is quite different from science. Scientists try to understand nature. Engineers try to make things that do not exist in nature. Engineers stress invention. To embody an invention the engineer must put his idea in concrete terms, and design something that people can use. That something can be a device, a gadget, a material, a method, a computing program, an innovative experiment, a new solution to a problem, or an improvement on what is existing. Since a design has to be concrete, it must have its geometry, dimensions, and characteristic numbers. Almost all engineers working on new designs find that they do not have all the needed information. Most often, they are limited by insufficient scientific knowledge. Thus they study mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and mechanics. Often they have to add to the sciences relevant to their profession. Thus engineering sciences are born.

—Yuan-Cheng ('Bert') Fung

Our struggle today is not to have a female Einstein get appointed as an assistant professor. It is for a woman schlemiel to get as quickly promoted as a male schlemiel.

--Bella Abzug

Here's some exciting news: women now make up 49% of the workforce and 57% of the college population—indisputable evidence that women aren't just a part of the workforce, they're shaping it. After years of fighting for the rights and privileges that men enjoy, women are finally positioned to become the top influencers at work, at home, and in the world.

—Katherine Crowley and Kathi Elster

High school and college students like to torture their bodies. They pull countless all-nighters, continually skip breakfast, eat nothing but ramen noodles for dinner, find creative new ways to guzzle alcohol, transform into couch potatoes, and gain 15 pounds at the freshman dinner buffet. At least, that"s the stereotype.

—Stefanie Weisman

Maybe it's the last year of med school when they say, 'I'll take a slightly less interesting specialty because I'm going to want more balance one day. Maybe it's the fifth year in a law firm when they say, 'I'm not even sure I should go for partner, because I know I'm going to want kids eventually.'...And from that moment, they start quietly leaning back. They don't pursue promotions or agree to overseas transfers. ...Do not lean back—lean in. Put your foot on the gas pedal and keep it there until the day you have made a decision.

--Sheryl Sandberg

The university system aside, I suspect there is a deeply ingrained set of behaviors that undermine women: the habits they pick up—or don't pick up—in the dating world. Men learn early that to woo women, they must risk rejection and be persistent. Straight women, for their part, learn from their earliest years that they must wait to be courted. The professional world does not reward the second approach. No one is going to ask someone out professionally if she just makes herself attractive enough. I suspect this is why people who put together discussion panels and solicit op-eds always tell me the same things: it's harder to get women to say yes than men. Well, duh. To be female in our culture is to be trained from puberty in the art of rebuffing—rebuffing gazes, comments, touches, propositions, and proposals.

--Garance Franke-Ruta

No matter who you are or what you plan to do, learn to type!

--Liz Smith

Women today spend an inordinate amount of time attacking one another…Women in the workforce quietly whisper that female bosses are the worst; women on the playground indelicately dissect other mothers' choices to return to work. In my own experience, female students are liable to be particularly tough on female professors, and female professors, especially in mostly male environments, to be particularly critical of their younger female colleagues. Whenever I relate one of these stories to my husband, he sighs and offers the same remark. 'This,' he says, 'is why you people will never take over.' Slightly sexist, I know. But probably true.

--Debora Spar

We've made undeniable progress. In the United States, women now earn more college and graduate degrees then men do. We make up half the workforce, and we are closing the gap in middle management. Half a dozen global studies, conducted by the likes of Goldman Sachs and Columbia University, have found that companies employing women in large numbers outperform their competitors on every measure of profitability. Our competence has never been more obvious. Those who closely follow society's shifting values see the world moving in a female direction.

--Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

I think it would be a wonderful thing if a coach could just forget all about the high school and prep school wonders of the world and develop a team from among the students of his institution who came to his school because they liked it best, and not because of any attractive offers made for athletic ability.

--Knute Rockne

There is a particular crisis for women—a vast confidence gap that separates the sexes. Compared with men, women don't consider themselves as ready for promotions, they predict they'll do worse on tests, and they generally underestimate their abilities. This disparity stems from factors ranging from upbringing to biology. A growing body of evidence shows just how devastating this lack of confidence can be. Success, it turns out, correlates just as closely with confidence as it does with competence. No wonder that women, despite all our progress, are still woefully underrepresented at the highest levels.

--Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

If we help an educated man's daughter to go to Cambridge are we not forcing her to think not about education but about war?—not how she can learn, but how she can fight in order that she might win the same advantages as her brothers?

--Virginia Woolf

As a young professor I would set up a test where I'd ask men and women how they thought they were going to do on a variety of tasks. Men consistently overestimated their abilities and subsequent performance, and the women routinely underestimated both. The actual performances did not differ in quality. It is one of the most consistent findings you can have.

--Brenda Major

I'm not the woman president of *Harvard*; I'm the president of *Harvard*.

—Drew Gilpin Faust

The unemployment rate among black college graduates (4.1 percent) is almost the same as the unemployment rate among white high-school graduates (4.6 percent). But that college degree is generally purchased at a higher price by blacks than by whites. According to research by the Brookings Institution, African Americans tend to carry more student debt four years after graduation ($53,000 versus $28,000) and suffer from a higher default rate on their loans (7.6 percent versus 2.4 percent) than white Americans. This is both the result and the perpetuator of a sprawling wealth gap between the races. White households, on average, hold seven times as much wealth as black households—a difference so large as to make comparing the 'black middle class' and 'white middle class' meaningless; they're simply not comparable. According to Patrick Sharkey, a sociologist at New York University who studies economic mobility, black families making $100,000 a year or more live in more-disadvantaged neighborhoods than white families making less than $30,000. This gap didn't just appear by magic; it's the result of the government's effort over many decades to create a pigmentocracy—one that will continue without explicit intervention.

—Ta-Nehisi Coates

I felt a mix of pride and amazement walking onto Howard's campus that day. Howard alumni, of which I am one, are an obnoxious fraternity, known for yelling the school chant across city blocks, sneering at other historically black colleges and universities, and condescending to black graduates of predominantly white institutions. I like to think I am more reserved, but I felt an immense satisfaction in being in the library where I had once found my history.

—Ta-Nehisi Coates

During residency, I worked hospital shifts that could last 36 hours, without sleep, often without breaks of more than a few minutes. Even writing this now, it sounds to me like I'm bragging or laying claim to some fortitude of character. I can't think of another type of self-injury that might be similarly lauded, except maybe binge drinking. Technically the shifts were 30 hours, the mandatory limit imposed by the *Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education*, but we stayed longer because people kept getting sick. Being a doctor is supposed to be about putting other people's needs before your own. Our job bas to power through.

—James Hamblin

Look at the money we make off predominantly poor black kids. We're the wh**emasters.

--Dale Brown

The college player cannot sell his own feet (the coach does that) nor can he sell his own name (the college will do that). This is the plantation mentality resurrected and blessed by today's campus executives.

--Walter Byers

Approximately 1 percent of NCAA men's basketball players and 2 percent of NCAA football players are drafted by the NBA or NFL teams, and just being drafted is no assurance of a successful professional career. The odds against professional athletic success are astronomically high.

--*Knight Commission Report*-2010

Student-athletes earn free tuition, which over the course of four years can exceed $200,000. They are also provided with housing, textbooks, food, and academic tutoring. When they travel to road games, they are given per diems for meals. They also get coaching, training, game experience, and media exposure they 'earn' in their respective crafts.

--Seth Davis

Education, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men—the balance-wheel of the social machinery....It does better than to disarm the poor of their hostility towards the rich; it prevents being poor.

--Horace Mann

Imagine, or a moment, if Americans transferred our obsessive intensity about high-school sports—the rankings, the trophies, the ceremonies, the pride—to high-school academics. We would look not so different from South Korea, or Japan, or any of a handful of Asian countries whose hyper-competitive, pressure-cooker approach to academics in many ways mirrors the American approach to sports. Both approaches can be dysfunctional; both set kids up for stress and disappointment. The difference is that 93 percent of South Korean students graduate from high school, compared with just 77 percent of American students—only about 2 percent of whom receive athletic scholarships to college.

--Amanda Ripley

What if the cure for cancer is trapped inside the mind of someone who can't afford an education?

—Unknown

Philosophers before Kant had a tremendous advantage over philosophers after Kant in that they didn't have to spend years studying Kant.

--Bertrand Russell

There are nowadays professors of philosophy, but not philosophers.

—Henry David Thoreau

Geography: Once an important part of the elementary curriculum, geography has suffered great neglect. A…study of 12-year-olds in eight industrialized countries found American students especially lacking in basic geographic knowledge. (In one test group, 20 percent of the students could not even locate the United States on a world map.) A…survey of North Carolina college students' geographic knowledge found 95 percent 'flunking'—that is, scoring less than 70 percent. Only 27 percent of the students knew that the Amazon River was in Brazil, and a mere 20 percent associated the Ganges with India. Of those responding, 71 percent 'never had reference to geography in their elementary schooling.'…children need to develop certain cognitive skills before they can handle abstract geographic concepts like 'north' and 'south.' But they can begin at an early age to learn illustrations of the five basic themes of geography education: location, place, relationships within places, movement, and regions.

—William J. Bennett

The decline of geography in academia is easy to understand: we live in an age of ever-increasing specialization, and geography is a generalist's discipline. Imagine the poor geographer trying to explain to someone at a campus cocktail party (or even to an unsympathetic administrator) exactly what it is he or she studies.
'Geography is Greek for 'writing about the earth.' We study the Earth.'
'Right, like geologists.'
'Well, yes, but we're interested in the whole world, not just the rocky bits. Geographers also study oceans, lakes, the water cycle…'
'So, it's like oceanography or hydrology.'
'And the atmosphere.'
'Meteorology, climatology…'
'It's broader than just physical geography. We're also interested in how humans relate to their planet.'
'How is that different from ecology or environmental science?'
'Well, it encompasses them. Aspects of them. But we also study the social and economic and cultural and geopolitical sides of—'
'Sociology, economics, cultural studies, poli sci.'
'Some geographers specialize in different world regions.'
'Ah, right, we have Asian and African and Latin American studies programs here.' 'But I didn't know they were part of the geography department.'
'They're not)'
(Long pause.)
'So, uh, what is it that do study then?'

—Ken Jennings

Harvard has now de facto become a Chinese outpost.

—Thorsten J. Pattberg

In the bubble decade, making money as an end in itself boomed as a calling among students at elite universities like Harvard, siphoning off gifted undergraduates who might otherwise have been scientists, teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, artists or inventors.

—Frank Rich

As long as high schools strive to list the number of Ivy League schools their graduates attend and teachers pile on work without being trained to identify stress-related symptoms, I fear for our children's health. I am not mollified by the alums of my daughter's school who return to tell everyone that the rigor of high school prepared them for college, making their first year easier than they'd anticipated.
If they make it that far.

—Candy Schulman

I hope that here in America more and more the ideal of the well-trained and vigorous body will be maintained neck by neck with that of the well-trained and vigorous mind as the two coequal halves of the higher education for men and women alike.

—William James

Nutrition matters for everybody, but you can't major in it at Harvard. Most top scientists go into other fields. Most of the big studies were done 30 or 40 years ago, and most are seriously flawed. The food pyramid that told us to eat low fat and enormous amounts of grains was probably more a product of lobbying by Big Food than real science; its chief impact has been to aggravate our obesity epidemic. There's plenty more to learn: we know more about the physics of faraway stars than we know about human nutrition. It won't be easy, but it's not obviously impossible: exactly the kind of field that could yield secrets.

—Peter Thiel

Colleges teach the dead languages as if they were buried and the living ones as if they were dead.

--Frank Moore Colby

Every high school and college graduate in America should, I think, have some familiarity with statistics, economics and a foreign language such as Spanish. Religion may not be as indispensable, but the humanities should be a part of our repertory. They may not enrich our wallets, but they do enrich our lives. They civilize us. They provide context.

—Nicholas Kristof

I think my degrees in Theology and Psychology qualified me for nothing, but probably prepared me for everything.

—Brooke Bida

One reason I don't drink is that I want to know when I am having a good time.

--Lady Astor

Research says that youthful binge drinking can have lasting consequences. They are called 'children.'

--Jim Barach

Get-Real Parents understand that learning to drink takes a while and often starts with a baptism of fire. Better for Charlotte to barf her guts out on the new sectional than in the shadowy basement of a distant fraternity house.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Most of the time, all that separates a class president and a gang leader is numbers: a zip code, a paycheck, or a drug dealer's phone number.

—Thomm Quackenbush

Forecast for tonight: Alcohol, low standards and poor decisions.

—Weather Poster

Drink per drink, alcohol is more dangerous to young women than it is to young men, even after adjusting for differences in height and weight. Alcohol abuse appears to damage girls' brains differently and more severely than the same degree of alcohol abuse affects same-age boys.

--Leonard Sax

One day in my pharmacology class, we were discussing the possibility of legalizing marijuana. The class was pretty evenly divided between those that advocated legalizing marijuana and those that did not. The professor said he wanted to hear from a few people on both sides of the argument. A couple students had the opportunity to stand in front of the class and present their arguments. One student got up and spoke about how any kind of marijuana use was morally wrong and how nobody in the class could give him any example of someone who needed marijuana. A small girl in the back of the classroom raised her hand and said that she didn't want to get up, but just wanted to comment that there are SOME situations in which people might need marijuana. The same boy from before spoke up and said that she needed to back up her statements and that he still stood by the fact that there wasn't anyone who truly needed marijuana.

The same girl in the back of the classroom slowly stood up. As she raised her head to look at the boy, I could physically see her calling on every drop of confidence in her body. She told us that her husband had cancer. She started to tear up, as she related how he couldn't take any of the painkillers to deal with the radiation and chemotherapy treatments. His body was allergic and would have violent reactions to them. She told us how he had finally given in and tried marijuana. Not only did it help him to feel better, but it allowed him to have enough of an appetite to get the nutrients he so desperately needed.

She started to sob as she told us that for the past month she had to meet with drug dealers to buy her husband the only medicine that would take the pain away. She struggled every day because according to society, she was a criminal, but she was willing to do anything she could to help her sick husband. Sobbing uncontrollably now, she ran out of the classroom. The whole classroom sat there in silence for a few minutes. Eventually, my professor asked, 'Is there anyone that thinks this girl is doing something wrong?' Not one person raised their hand.

—Daniel Willey

Liquor is such a nice substitute for facing adult life.

--Dorothy B. Hughes

Binge drinking when younger has been linked to a host of problems when you are older, including an increased risk of heart disease and cancer. Even more sobering, the hippocampus and frontal brain structures don't mature until about age 25, so if you drank a lot before then, you may have inhibited your brain's functional development.

—Joe Kita

Popularity is a trap. The research is overwhelming. For instance, a study tracking nearly 200 13-year-olds over the course of a decade found that those who acted old for their age by sneaking into movies, forming early romantic relationships, shoplifting, and basing friendships on appearance were considered by their peers to be the popular kids. The 'cool kids,' the same study found, had a 45 percent greater rate of problems due to substance abuse by age 22, and a 22 percent greater rate of criminal behavior, compared with the average teen in the study. Such behavior made the popular group far less socially acceptable as young adults than they were at 13, which suggests that while the cool kids achieved temporary social status, they never developed the skills needed for deep, durable friendships.

—Ron Fournier

As much as you'd love to study in the library with a group of friends, that doesn't always lend itself to productivity. The sooner you figure out your ideal settings of productivity, the better off you'll be when you inevitably procrastinate and are forced to finish an assignment at the last minute.

—Katie Erickson

I can't focus in class. I zone out and only have a vague idea of what's going on, so I make sure to search the topics we're supposed to know on YouTube when I get home and I swear it helps!

—Lisa Simon

If you care about being thought credible and intelligent, do not use complex language where simpler language will do. My *Princeton* colleague Danny Oppenheimer refuted a myth prevalent among undergraduates about the vocabulary that professors find most impressive. In an article titled 'Consequences of Erudite Vernacular Utilized Irrespective of Necessity: Problems with Using Long Words Needlessly,' he showed that couching familiar ideas in pretentious language is taken as a sign of poor intelligence and low credibility.

—Daniel Kahneman

The first thing you get after obtaining a bachelor's degree is a sudden lack of respect for people with bachelor's degrees.

—Unknown

The best students are those who never quite believe their professors.

—Jim Collins

Reading ability is directly related to earnings potential. Projected annual salaries: $24,492 for high school dropouts; $33, 904 for high school graduates; $55,432 for college graduates.

—*Voyager Sopris Learning* (2017)

In a poll of 15,000 juniors and seniors at 31 universities, more than 87 percent of business majors admitted to cheating at least once in college, the largest such percentage. Engineering students came in second, with 74 percent admitting to cheating. Next came science students, with 63 percent. Humanities majors, at 53 percent, are least likely to cheat.

--*The Conference Boar*d

In 2012, only 14% of women entering university for the first time elected to pursue a science-related field of study, contrasted with 39% of men entering university in the same year.

—Ximena Rojo

The poet and poetess have always had a rough time of it in the Republic. It has ever been their endemic luck to starve, become a Harvard professor, commit suicide, lose their reading glasses before an audience of sophomores, go upon the people a la Barnum, and serve as homework in state universities, where they could in nowise get a position and where their presence usually scatters the English faculty like a truant officer among the Amish.

—Guy Davenport

I hire only people with high-reactive temperaments as research assistants. They're compulsive; they don't make errors.

--Jerome Kagan

The most reliable predictor of whether students liked a course, it turned out, was their answer to the question 'Did the professor respect you?'

—Kwame Anthony Appiah

Higher education is no longer just for kids in the top quarter or the top half of the class—college is for everyone. Every student in this country needs some higher education, whether that's two-year degree, a four-year degree, or professional training of some sort.

—Michelle Obama

I didn't have toys and bikes; I'd go out and pick up rocks. I was into science and nature. It was my first love. I was going to be a vet and a marine biologist. I went to university and studied biology for two weeks and I just thought: 'I've been conned!'

—Ricky Gervais

The United States is ranked 12th among developed nations in the percentage of young adults with college degrees.

—Robert Bardwell (2014)

More than half of college and university students are women, and the percentage of women entering many STEM fields has risen. Computer science is a glaring exception: the percentage of female computer- and information-science majors peaked in 1984, at about 37 percent. It has declined, more or less steadily, ever since. Today it stands at 18 percent.

—Liza Munday

Plato didn't philosophize where Socrates had. He abandoned the agora and created the Academy, the first European university, which attracted thinkers—purportedly even a couple of women—from across greater Hellas, including, at the age of 17 or 18, Aristotle. Foremost among the problems they pondered was how to create a society in which a person like Socrates would flourish, issuing stringent calls to self-scrutiny, as relevant now as ever.

—Rebecca Newberger Goldstein

Academics, who work for long periods in a self-directed fashion, may be especially prone to putting things off: surveys suggest that the vast majority of college students procrastinate, and articles in the literature of procrastination often allude to the author's own problems with finishing the piece.

—James Surowiecki

He's wearing his official university sweatshirt again, which puzzles me a little. I mean I'd sort of understand it more if it said *Yale* or *Harvard* or something, because then it would be a fashion choice. But why advertise the fact that you're at a university to all the other people who are at the university with you?

—David Nicholls

Take the example of a young woman named Sbeidy Dominguez from Escondido, California. Now, no one in Sbeidy's family had ever attended college—I know you see many kids like that—but her school counselor, Rita Guerra, insisted that she was college material. So Rita pushed Sbeidy to take the SATs and the ACTs and enroll in AP classes. Then, senior year, Sbeidy became pregnant, and her dreams of college started to seem impossible.

But once again, Rita stepped in. She helped Sbeidy find medical care, to complete her FAFSA forms, and to make up her AP exams after she gave birth. And as a result, Sbeidy graduated in the top one percent of her high school class, and this fall, she will be starting [her senior year] at the *University of California* in Riverside. That's the difference that you all make in a student's life.

—Michelle Obama

Food comas—known as postprandial somnolence…are fine when you're relaxing with friends or family, but they're a major setback when you have exams and papers to write.

—Stefanie Weisman

College students like to torture their bodies. They pull countless all-nighters, continually skip breakfast, eat nothing but ramen noodles for dinner, find creative new ways to guzzle alcohol, transform into couch potatoes, and gain 15 pounds at the freshman dinner buffet.

—Stefanie Weisman

I'm not a procrastinator. I just prefer doing all my work in a deadline-induced panic.

—*invisiblebread.com*

A teacher who is alive and interesting is involved in knowledge generation. Research is a part of being a university scholar.

--Nola Pender

The role of a research university is to create knowledge as well as to transmit it through teaching.

--Elizabeth E. Bass

Research, as the college student will come to know it, is relatively thorough investigation, primarily in libraries, of a properly limited topic, and presentation of the results of this investigation in a carefully organized and documented paper of some length.

--Cecil B. Williams and
Alan H. Stevenson

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman chided graduate students who would begin work on a problem in a normal way by checking what had already been done. That way, he told them, they would give up the chance of finding something original.

--James Gleick

Since one must publish to get grants, and promotion in many institutions hinges on the size of the grants, publication and grants rather than discovery become the goals in the laboratory.

--Ernest Borek

If one defines the term 'dropout' to mean a person who has given up serious effort to meet his responsibilities, then every business office, government agency, golf club and university faculty would yield its quota.

--John Gardner

We know that to compete for the jobs of the 21st century and thrive in a global economy, we need a growing, skilled and educated workforce, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. Americans with bachelor's degrees have half the unemployment rate of those with a high school degree.

—Mark Pocan

It is not easy to find someone your size once the Freshman Fifteen turns to the Sophomore Forty or the Senior Sixty. Even when, through some miracle of self-restraint and bulimia, college girls managed to continue to have feminine bodies, so many of these tacky sluts have never heard word one about what fashion entails.

—Thomm Quackenbush

There's just a natural sort of feeling among the women that they will not get a prestigious job, so why bother trying. Or they think that they are not totally competent in the area, so they're not going to go for it. They end up going into less competitive fields, like human resources or marketing. They don't go for finance, investment banks, or senior-track faculty positions.

--Victoria Brescoll

The faithful study of the liberal arts humanizes character.

--Ovid

You're not going to get very far in life based on what you already know. You're going to advance in life by what you're going to learn after you leave here.

—Charlie Munger

By the time these students enter the workforce, many of the jobs they will apply for will be in industries that don't even exist yet. That's a hard future to prepare someone for. Teachers have their sights set on the real goal: not to produce Ivy League graduates, but to encourage the development of naturally curious, confident, flexible, and happy learners who are ready for whatever the future has in store.

—Taylor Mali

I must report that even excellent institutions run by excellent human beings are inherently sluggish, not hungry for innovation, not quick to respond to human need, not eager to reshape themselves to meet the challenge of the times.

--John W. Gardner

Diversity without unity makes about as much sense as dishing up flour, sugar, water, eggs, shortening, and baking powder on a plate and calling it a cake.

--C. William Pollard

Students who acquire large debts putting themselves through school are unlikely to think about changing society. When you trap people in a system of debt . They can't afford the time to think. Tuition fee increases are a 'disciplinary technique,' and, by the time students graduate, they are not only loaded with debt, but have also internalized the 'disciplinarian culture.' This makes them efficient components of the consumer economy.

—Noam Chomsky

As universities have turned into businesses, so students have turned into consumers.

—Kenan Malik

By 2018 there will be more than two million open jobs in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) professions, but only 19 percent of current college degrees are in STEM fields. Even worse, 75 percent of students that do well in science and math decide to not pursue STEM in college. If we want to remain a global leader, we have to develop more interest in these topics. One way to do that is to show students that coding ties into nearly everything we do. And to do that, we need to incorporate programming into the curriculum.

—Ellen Ullman

I don't want to sleep like a baby. I want to sleep like a college student home for the summer.

—Unknown

I have a chemistry degree. Of course I have problems.

—Unknown

Deal with yourself as an individual worthy of respect, and make everyone else deal with you the same way. College is a little like playing grown-up. Practice what you want to be. You have been telling your parents you are grown. Now is your chance to act like it.

--Nikki Giovanni

Nowadays it seems that moral education is no longer considered necessary. Attention is wholly centered on intelligence, while the heart of life is ignored.

--George Sand

Manufacturing, construction, auto repair jobs, and dozens of other industries are feeling the…pinch of hiring and retaining sufficient trained workers. There is, however, a larger context to the problem…the state has sorely neglected vocational education in the popular, if wrongheaded, drive to direct every high school student into college, even though no more than a fifth of high school graduates will, in fact, obtain four-year degrees. A recent survey by the *Public Policy Institute of California* found that nearly two-thirds of Californians believe that someone must have a college education to succeed, which is patently wrong, as the highly paid technical and blue-collar jobs now going begging attest. Politicians and the education establishment feed that canard through polices that elevate college preparation above all other considerations….
At the same time, however, California is losing millions of potential replacements for those aging baby boom workers by allowing nearly a third of high school students to drop out without obtaining diplomas.

—Dan Walters

It is extremely unlikely that anyone coming out of school with a technical degree will go into one area and stay there. Today's students have to look forward to the excitement of probably having three or four careers.

—Gordon Moore

When bright young minds can't afford college, America pays the price.

—Arthur Ashe

College doesn't particularly qualify you for the outside world. The world is changing so fast, and college is not. It should strive to be more in tune with the world.

—Kent McCord

Voters inclined to loathe and fear elite Ivy League schools rarely make fine distinctions between *Yale* and *Harvard*. All they know is that both are full of rich, fancy, stuck-up and possibly dangerous intellectuals who never sit down to supper in their undershirt no matter how hot the weather gets.

— Russell Baker

I had no idea when I went to college what I'd be doing. I took organic chemistry and did terribly, but I was good in English and art. I took many courses and participated in as many activities as I could. I learned a lot about every single thing.

—Martha Stewart

I think that when people join clubs as simple as a sorority or a fraternity, a football team, a baseball team, it's just—you want to be in a group. You want to be around people, you want to be with people.

—Theo Rossi

Being part of a fraternity has given me the foundation for everything I do in my career from the loyalty to the determination; it laid the foundation for everything I've been able to enjoy.

—Terrence J

Let's be clear: no one is forced into hazing. If you don't want to be hazed, don't join a fraternity.

—Milo Yiannopoulos

Clubs, fraternities, nations—these are the beloved barriers in the way of a workable world, these will have to surrender some of their rights and some of their ribs. A 'fraternity' is the antithesis of fraternity. The first (that is, the order or organization) is predicated on the idea of exclusion; the second (that is, the abstract thing) is based on a feeling of total equality. Anyone who remembers back to his fraternity days at college recalls the enthusiasts in his group, the rabid members, both young and old, who were obsessed with the mystical charm of membership in their particular order. They were usually men who were incapable of genuine brotherhood, or at least unaware of its implications. Fraternity begins when the exclusion formula is found to be distasteful. The effect of any organization of a social and brotherly nature is to strengthen rather than diminish the lines which divide people into classes; the effects of states and nations is the same, and eventually these lines will have to be softened, these powers will have to be generalized.

—E. B. White

One of the things that the *Phi Kappa Psi* has to offer a young man is not to feel like you're ever going to be a cookie-cut stamped out sort of figure...To have that wonderful kind of anchor of a fraternal group is a great help to an undergraduate student trying to find his way in this tough and rather impersonal world today.

—Peter Graves

I shall never be able to compensate my fraternity for all that it has done for me, no matter what service I may be allowed to give. In it I have found my most intimate friends. As undergraduate chapter president, I gained broad administrative experience, and from my fraternity I have derived my most cherished ideals of conduct.

—Dr. Herman B. Wells

[On sorority life] If I paid for my friends, I surely didn't pay enough.

—Unknown

My chapter house was a place where deep friendships were formed. The bond of brotherhood within the chapters was always a sustaining force and an urge to do a better job scholastically and otherwise in campus life. The traits of character which were nurtured there ripened and increased my sense of being useful in later life.

—D. William Brosnon

I took a great deal more from my fraternity than I gave — but what I took was a very great deal — companionship of the highest order, self-confidence born of belonging to a group of which I was proud, enrichment of my personal life, which gave all my college career added dimension, and even an extra bond to several life-long friendships that already existed.

—Walter Cronkite

I found in my chapter companionship and guidance from older men, discipline and true fellowship. The fraternity is more than just a boarding house. It is a temple of good will, of mutual assistance and enlightenment. The benefits derived are constant companions with alert fellow students in all activities of university life, and it tends to create more mature, responsible and intelligent citizens.

—Lloyd Wright

Sororities symbolize all that we wish to accomplish in our lives. They represent the struggles we all face as we grow. Why we cling to them no one can explain, but in the end, we are all stronger for it.

—Unknown

Sisterhood is the essence of all the wisdom of the ages, distilled into a single word. You cannot see sisterhood, neither can you hear it nor taste it. But you can feel it a hundred times a day. It is a pat on the back, a smile of encouragement. It's someone to share with, to celebrate your achievements.

—Unknown

There are two types of women in this world: sorority women and those who wish they were.

—Unknown

SORORITY SOLILOQUY

I've heard it said a sorority
Is a waste of time; but I know better…
For I have seen the love and walked
In the splendor of sisterhood…
I've heard it said that a sorority
Is sad; I can't agree…
I've heard it said that a sorority
Is a dull, selfish place; It can't be true…
I've seen the affection, watched it
Fill my heart, the very air…
And I have learned the Creed
Polished and spotless from end to end
And I've watched the sorority's
Devotion drape each and every active
And pledge to look like nature's
Freshly-granted love nourished for growth…
I've heard it said that a sorority is
Harmful, but they are wrong…
For I know my sisters…watched them
Strive to save a cause, spend of themselves…
And I've watched them hope, dream,
And aspire, side by side…
I've heard them say these things,
But I would disagree…
Because for every shadow I have
Seen a hundred rays of light…
For every plaintive note I've
Heard the symphony of joy…
For every penny-weight of bad,
I've found a ton of good…
Good in nature, in people, in my sorority…
I'm thankful I belong.

Sorority sisters are the siblings God forgot to give us.

—Unknown

I KNOW A GIRL...

I know a girl...
Who is amazing.
She runs a few miles a day, aces her classes,

organizes social events, and participates in all sorts of campus organizations.
At night she may go out and have fun, but she always manages to get everything done.

I know a girl...
Who will let you cry on her shoulder and will be there for you in times of need.
She has lots of friends and makes sure she leaves enough time to hang with them all.
She will give good advice and listen to your every word and thought with an unbiased ear.
She will love you for who you are and accept you no matter what.

I know a girl...
Who will smile even though she didn't have the greatest day.
She always brings her positive attitude and it's contagious.
Those who are around her want to smile too!

I know a girl...
Who will bring out the best in everyone she meets.
She has friends in many different houses on this campus as well as friends who are not Greek, because she does not care what house you're in.
Who parties it up at fraternity parties, but goes many other places at night.

You might know this girl too...
Whether you're in her house or not, everyone knows one of these girls.
She is my sister.
She might be your sister, or she might be someone else's.
Those that know this girl know what sororities are all about because she represents them in almost everything she does.

—Unknown

Sororities aren't about drinking and boys and Kate Spade and Prada.
Sororities are about laughter, tears, friendship, sisterhood, honor, loyalty, and love.
The people in my sorority want me to succeed.
They help me to rise up and allow others to follow.
At retreats we share in times that we will remember forever.
But it's not really just my sorority.
Homecoming, Socials, Parents Weekend, and other Greek activities have given me the opportunity to find out what is unique about each sorority, and I really find wonderful friends among them all.
We need to let other people know who we are.
Greeks are not exclusive—they are merely one group of many.

I have heard the jokes, we all have...
about what non-Greek students may think about us.
But I challenge you—prove them wrong.
Don't just try to make your house look good, try to make Greeks look good.
Let people know that we are athletes, we are scholars, we come from diverse backgrounds, and we have diverse goals.
But let them know we have similarities.
We are all in the constant pursuit of success. We are all working to achieve our goals,
and we are all making friendships that last a life time.
So be proud, prove people wrong...
Remember that although my sorority may have different history and ideals than yours,
that we are all here for common reasons.

—Unknown

Sometimes we stand outside life
Waiting for a door to open to us
Hoping the person behind that door
Will let us in and be our friend
I was once on the outside
Until a door opened to me and
Behind it I found not only a
Friend, but a new world- a sisterhood-
Now I stand behind that door- on the inside
Helping to open it for someone else
Who stands where I once stood.

—Linda Parks

They are the family we choose to surround us, the sisters bound by love instead of blood. They know when we are lonely, and appear without being called. When we feel lost, they provide a living map to what comes next; when we doubt everything about ourselves, they remind us who we are.

—Barbara Alpert

Sisterhood
is so many things...
It's a warm smile on a cold and rainy day
a friendly hug, a cheerful hello.
It's baking cookies together.
It's get better cards when you are sick.
It's 'Just because I love you' presents.
It's a phone call just to make you smile!

It's all that a good and lasting friendship is,
only better!
It's treasured. It's sacred.
It's knowing that there will always
be someone there for you, no matter what.
It's dreams shared, and goals achieved.
It's counting on others, and being counted on!
It's... Delta Zeta!

—Unknown

Three important studies support the idea that being in high school activities is helpful after high school.

- *The American College Testing Service* compared the value of four factors in predicting 'success' after high school. Based upon happiness and self-satisfaction of those interviewed, it was discovered that grades in high school, grades in college, and high ACT scores were not useful as predictors of success. The one item that proved to be a significant predictor of success and life was achievement in school activities.

- *The College Entrance Examination Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test* was examined in much the same way. It was found the best predictor of later successes was a person's independence, self-sustained ventures.

- Teens who are active in school activities, had hobbies, or held jobs were found to be most likely to succeed at their chosen professions and to make creative contributions to their community.

- A four-year study was conducted by *Educational Testing Service and the College Boar*d. Beginning…with 4,184 college freshman and following up on 3,676 who graduated…, it was again concluded that participation in activities is a much better indicator of overall college performance than any other yardstick.

Pre-admission interviews and the educational level of students' parents were also looked at, but discovered to be less accurate predictors than involvement in activities.

—*National Association of Secondary School Principals*

She is your mirror, shining back at you with a world of possibilities. She is your witness, who sees you at your worst and best, and loves you anyway. She is your partner in crime, your midnight companion, someone who knows when you are smiling, even in the dark. She is your teacher, your defense attorney, your personal press agent, even your shrink. She is your sister.

—Barbara Alpert

Strong applicants—numbering thousands more than we have room to admit—… usually present one or more co-curricular accomplishments that make them stand out as good matches for *Harvard* and *Radcliffe*. As do other colleges, we value excellence in playing the cello, and singing or acting, or throwing the hammer. We value these well-developed talents for many reasons. Those students can contribute to the co-curricular life of the college, musically, dramatically, athletically, and so on. The educational reasons we value those nonacademic talents go well beyond the fact that all our students (and faculty and staff members) are enriched by the high-quality co-curricular life at the college. We know that students with serious nonacademic commitments use all the college's resources particularly well.

—William R. Fitzsimmons and Marilyn McGrath

There is a…basic reason for valuing co-curricular commitments. They help us answer that fundamental admission question: who are you? From noting participation in co-curricular activities, the Committee can learn a lot about a person's interests, energy level, drive, self-discipline and, generally how well a candidate uses available opportunities. Those qualities are strongly associated with success—academic and otherwise—in college and beyond. We know that these qualities distinguish our most successful graduates—no matter what they do later in life. We recognize also that many of our students transfer their energy and drive to co-curriculum activities they had not participated in before college, often with good success.

—William R. Fitzsimmons and Marilyn McGrath

It's not clear that all young women really want to embrace the carefree lifestyle promoted in *Girls* or *Sex and the City*. Some of them want boyfriends, now an apparently endangered species. Most want, eventually, to marry. And not all enjoy the hookup culture of casual, often even anonymous, sex. Yet these are the peer pressures that surround them. Just go to pretty much any Internet dating site or campus blog. Women are supposed to be actively sexual, skilled in the range of

activities that their partners are watching online. They are supposed to look like models, drink like fish, and not care a whit if their one-night fling never texts them again. And then they're somehow supposed to find the right guy at the right time, don an oddly virginal wedding gown, and snuggle in to a life of cozy monogamy ever after. It's tough. Women of earlier generations were almost certainly frustrated by the long list of romantic options—affairs, divorces, same-sex partners—that remained forever out of reach. But women today face an upside-down problem: the expectation that in love, as in so many areas, they are somehow expected to have, and do, it all.

--Debora Spar

The Negro baby born in America today, regardless of the section or the state in which he is born, has about one-half as much chance of completing a high school as a white baby, born in the same place, on the same day; one-third as much chance of completing college; one-third as much chance of becoming a professional man; twice as much chance of becoming unemployed; about one-seventh as much chance of earning $10,000 a year; a life expectancy which is seven years shorter and the prospects of earning only half as much.

--John F. Kennedy

Imagine if you had genuine, high-quality early-childhood education for every child, and suddenly every black child in America…is getting a really good education. And they're graduating from high school at the same rates that whites are, and they are going to college at the same rates that whites are, and they are able to afford college at the same rates because the government has universal programs that say that you're not going to be barred from school just because of how much money your parents have.

So now they're all graduating,. And let's also say that the Justice Department and the courts are making sure, as I've said in a speech before, that when Jamal sends his résumé in, he's getting treated the same as when Johnny sends his résumé in. Now, are we going to have suddenly the same number of CEOs, billionaires, etc., as the white community? In 10 years? Probably not, maybe not even in 20 years.

But I guarantee you that we would be thriving, we would be succeeding. We wouldn't have huge numbers of young African American men in jail. We'd have more family formation as college-graduated girls are meeting boys who are their peers, which then in turn means the next generation of kids are growing up that much better. And suddenly you've got a whole generation that's in a position to start using the incredible creativity that we see in music, and sports, and frankly even on the streets, channeled into starting all kinds of businesses. I feel pretty good about our odds in that situation.

—Barack Obama

Leaving home in a sense involves a kind of second birth in which we give birth to ourselves.

—Robert Neelly Bellah

While college is generally a good investment, it has become increasingly expensive over the last several decades to attend a four-year program, as costs have risen considerably faster than wages, especially wages for all but the very top of the income distribution. This means that college has become increasingly unaffordable for those families who need it most, if we are to increase social and economic mobility.

—William Dudley

The *U.S. Supreme Cour*t ruled in 1969 against a Des Moines, Iowa, school district, finding that students had a right to protest peacefully on school grounds. In this case, the Court said, the teenage plaintiffs could wear black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War, as long as they did so without 'materially and substantially' disturbing class. Justice Hugo Black issued an ominous dissent. 'It is the beginning of a new revolutionary era of permissiveness in this country,' he wrote. 'Groups of students all over the land are already running loose, conducting break-ins, sit-ins, lie-ins, and smash-ins.' Following the federal ruling, state and local officials passed a flurry of laws that would punish students who were disturbing class, anywhere from universities to elementary schools. At the time, it's worth remembering, black students weren't just protesting; they were also integrating white classrooms, backed by the federal government. 'As soon as we started introducing black bodies into white schools, we got these laws,' says Jenny Egan, a public defender for juveniles in Maryland who regularly represents clients charged with disturbing school. 'That's not a coincidence.'

—Amanda Ripley

College is somewhere between 'Mom, I'm an adult and can do as I please' and 'Mom, can you transfer $100 into my account?'

—Internet Meme

People yearn to be in one of the best—a combat marine regiment, an elite college, the executive committee of a company, a religious sect, a fraternity, a garden club—any collectivity that can be compared favorably with other, competing groups.

--E. O. Wilson

Children whose curiosity survives parental discipline and who manage to grow up before they blow up are invited to join the Yale faculty. Within the university they go on asking their questions and trying to find the answers ... it is a place where the world's hostility to curiosity can be defied.

—Edmund S. Morgan

The Census says that college educated young adults are the most likely to be married. That just shows there is a big difference between being book smart and having common sense.

--Jim Barach

College graduates who wait until they are 30 to get married report an average annual income of about $50,000—$20,000 a year more than those who married before the age of 21. They also report arguing less frequently, and intensely, with their spouses.

--Megan McArdle

A university is a college with a stadium seating over 40,000.

—Leonard L. Levinson

Bad judgment and carelessness are not punishable by rape.

--Pearl Cleage

High school is a lot more about growing up and developing an adult identity and sense of responsibility than it is about classroom learning. If you have not had a healthy socialization to the opposite sex during high school, you can look forward to immature posturing, fear-driven antipathy, and bad sexual judgment in college: a time when you may lack the support systems of friends and family, and when learning should be the primary focus of your activities.

--*The New Republic*

Those most likely to be raped or sexually assaulted are young women between the ages of 16 and 24, women with their whole lives ahead of them. This one act of violence will alter their lives forever.

—Rosa DeLauro

Dating is remarkably difficult to characterize. The term has outlasted more than a century's worth of evolving courtship rituals, and we still don't know what it means. Sixth-graders claim to be dating when, after extensive negotiations conducted by third parties, two of them go out for ice cram. Many collegiate students and 20-somethings don't start dating until after they've had sex. Dating can be used to describe exclusive and nonexclusive relationships, both short-term and long-term. And now, thanks to mobile apps, dating can involve a succession of rendezvous over drinks to check out a dizzying parade of 'matches' made with the swipe of a finger.

—Judith Shulevitz

In the United States 12 to 18 year-olds are regarded as a population with increasing risk for both attempted and completed suicides. The suicidal rate for this age group is greater in the United States than in most other countries. It is more frequent among boys than girls, higher among non-white males, urban dwellers, college students, professional groups and American Indians. Marriage increases the risk (1.6 times more) of completed suicides in adolescents. Most of the married suicide victims, however, are childless.

—Yosef Hakimi, M.D.

My women students openly admit that they dress for interviews like dates, hoping to look their best: makeup, high heels, a well-fitting suit that shows off their figure. And I always tell them to make sure to wear a shirt under the suit jacket. Form fitting, yes. Cleavage, no.

—Susan Estrich

It is against the natural order of life to bury our children. As parents and educators, we can, in time, reconcile ourselves to the loss of a child through accident or illness. But the choice of a child to end his or her own life is a different matter. We who are dedicated to nurturing human potential are appalled. Suddenly, part of the future is gone forever.
Tomorrow in the United States approximately 1,000 adolescents will attempt suicide. Eighteen will succeed. During the same period, twice as many young adults between the ages of 20 and 24 will end their lives.

—Maxine Seibel and
Joseph N. Muray

I asked my undergraduate students at *San Diego State University* what they do with their phones while they sleep. Their answers were a profile in obsession. Nearly all slept with their phone, putting it under their pillow, on the mattress, or at the very least within an arm's reach of the bed. They checked social media right before they went to sleep, and reached for their phone as soon as they woke up in the morning (they had to—all of them used it as their alarm clock). Their phone was the last thing they saw before they went to sleep and the first thing they saw when they woke up. If they woke in the middle of the night, they often ended up looking at their phone. Some used the language of addiction. 'I know I shouldn't, but I just can't help it,' one said about looking at her phone while in bed. Others saw their phone as an extension of their body—or even like a lover: having my phone close to me while I'm sleeping is a comfort.

—Jean M. Twenge

There are two periods in our lives when we have exceptional freedom: at college age and when we begin our retirement years.

--Jimmy Carter

A college degree has evolved from a luxury for wealthier Americans some four decades ago to a necessary prerequisite for a career in today's knowledge-heavy economy. Economists ay the benefits of attending college still outweigh the costs as graduates can realize much higher earnings and wealth over their lifetime. Data bear this out: Degree-holding households have a median net worth of $292,100 compared with $67,100 for those with a high school diploma.

—Agnel Philip

Americans making the investment in education are having to pile up debt with the hope their incomes improve along with it. Earnings can vary significantly based on the program. Engineers often benefit the most from their degrees and teachers the least.

—Agnel Philip

People get happier as they get older. The least happy are probably teenagers and people in their 20s. We get happier at midlife, but the peak is, depending on the study, around 65 or 70.

—Sonja Lyubomirsky

It appears that the benefit of higher education is only realized with a four year degree. Families with a high school diploma have roughly the same net worth as those with just some college, which covers those with associate degrees, certificates and people who dropped out of school.

—Agnel Philip

Decreasing returns from education could explain why more Americans are growing skeptical. According to a *Wall Street Journal*/*NBC News* poll released in September [2017], 49 percent of people believe a college degree is worth the cost compared with 47 percent to say it's not. That gap has narrowed from 13 points four years ago, and a majority of men now believe college isn't worth it.

—Agnel Philip

The future of the world belongs to the youth of the world, and it is from the youth and not from the old that the fire of life will warm and enlighten the world. It is your privilege to breathe the breath of life into the dry bones of many around you.

—Tom Mann

Intellectualism got a boost from the Second World War, when the G.I. Bill enabled universities to massively increase capacity. In this fertile period, before specialization fully took hold, philosophers, historians and sociologists explained the postwar world to the new hordes of college-educated women and men hungering for mental stimulation.

—Elizabeth Mitchell

Like their mothers and grandmothers, flappers tended to go to high school and even college, and they devoured new books featuring confident, fun-loving adolescent heroines who hiked and camped and solved mysteries. Flappers biked, played golf and tennis, and strove to emulate the flat-chested and hipless physiques of the adolescent boys whose freedom and lack of domestic responsibilities they envied. Predictably, these stylish tomboys were a grave source of worry to parents, educators, physicians and clergymen, who feared that sports and higher education would be ruinous.

—Linda Simon

Like the flappers, young millennial women have been criticized for their promiscuity and willingness to flash their flash —in real life and online. Social scientists point to the increasing overabundance of female college graduates and the resulting shortage of like-minded (read: marriageable) men.

—Paul O'Donnell

I began pulling out old pictures and yearbooks from our Los Angeles high schools and UC Berkeley. Suddenly there we were, thousands of trim-haired, neatly-dressed, conservative-looking youngsters, with perky, forced smiles, encased in identical inch by inch-and-a-quarter boxes for our children to snicker at. Only they did not snicker.
'Mom, this isn't the 60s, is it?'

—Elise Frances Miller

People of my age who went to college, go into college, you know what it cost back then? Nothing or next to nothing. At the most, you had to work at Dairy Queen during the summer and that would pay for your college education.

—Michael Moore-Age

In England, there's no such thing as fraternities. There's college groups, social groups, but they don't have as much history or brotherhood. When I first told my parents what a fraternity was, they were really intrigued by it. My family just wanted me to be safe in the U.S. and to have a lot of friends and just make sure I wasn't alone. Being an international student, you can be one of the loneliest people on campus sometimes, but being in a fraternity takes away that aspect.

—Jordan Forrester

Dartmouth College employs computer learning techniques in a very broad array of courses. For example, a student can gain a deep insight into the statistics of Mendelian genetics in an hour with the computer rather than spend a year crossing fruit flies in the laboratory.

--Carl Sagan

THE OPPORTUNITY COST OF HAZING

While your chapter was designing this year's recruitment T-shirt (another beer logo, of course), my chapter was having lunch with prospective members and their parents.
While your chapter was creating demeaning nicknames for each pledge, my chapter was taking the time to learn each candidate's name, hometown and life story.
While your chapter was debating what embarrassing costumes each pledge should wear for this weekend's party, my chapter was helping each candidate set personal goals for this semester.
While your chapter was out buying family drinks for Big Brother night, my chapter was arranging a mentoring program for each candidate to work with an alumnus in his field of study.
While your chapter was holding the weekly lineup in the basement to grill pledges on arbitrary questions they can't answer, our brothers were at the library studying with the candidates (our candidates learn fraternity history from the brothers).
While your pledges were out stealing roadsigns, defacing property, and breaking into campus buildings during the annual scavenger hunt, our candidates were listening to a guest speaker talk about time management skills and effective study habits at our weekly chapter meeting.
While your pledges were running errands and performing arbitrary tasks to complete their interview books, we were hosting the parents' dinner to learn more about our candidates and their families.
While your brothers were harassing pledges in front of their dates at last weekend's mixer, our chapter was hosting an etiquette dinner with the top sorority on campus.
While your chapter was trying to coordinate manufactured stories for the upcoming 'nationals' visit, my chapter was updating our strategic plan to free up time for feedback and guidance during the leadership consultant's visit.
While your chapter was searching for loopholes in the risk reduction policy for this weekend's off-campus party, my chapter was hosting a speaker on alcohol education open to the entire campus. (We hosted a party that weekend too, except we followed our insurance guidelines).
While your members were swapping stories of drunken female conquests from the previous night, my chapter was hosting a campus-wide program on preventing sexual assault.
While your chapter accepted mediocrity, we sought excellence.
While your chapter slowly fumbled everything away, we gradually earned our way to the top.
And while your chapter looked for someone to blame, we resolved to reach for the next level.

—www.sigmanu.org

Although I was four years at the *University [of Wisconsin*], I did not take the regular course of studies, but instead picked out what I thought would be most useful to me, particularly chemistry, which opened a new world, mathematics and physics, a little Greek and Latin, botany and and geology. I was far from satisfied with what I had learned, and should have stayed longer.
[Enrolled in Feb 1861, left in 1863 without completing a degree, and began his first botanical foot journey.]

— John Muir

When you're working on the farm, you're in touch with reality. You live on this earth. You don't live within boxes within cubes within a university.

--Hal Smith

The demand for skilled workers in the agriculture sector is…rising. In 2015, the *United States Department of Agriculture* reported that jobs in food and agriculture outnumber degrees granted in those fields nearly two to one.

—Jenna Gallegos

The presidents of colleges have to have some courage to step forward. You can't limit alcohol in college sports, you have to get rid of it.

—Dean Smith

He had some taste for romance reading before he went to the university, where, we must confess, in justice to his college, he was cured of the love of reading in all its shapes.

--Thomas Love Peacock

At about 3 PM on Friday, February 3, Tim Piazza, a sophomore at *Penn State University*, arrived at *Hershey Medical Center* by helicopter. Eighteen hours earlier, he had been in the kind of raging good health that only teenagers enjoy. He was a handsome, redheaded kid with a shy smile, a hometown girlfriend, and a family who loved him very much. Now he had a lacerated spleen, an abdomen full of blood, and multiple traumatic brain injuries. He had fallen down a flight of stairs during a hazing event at his fraternity, *Beta Theta Pi*, but the members had waited nearly 12 hours before calling 911, relenting only when their pledge 'looked fucking dead.' Tim underwent surgery shortly after arriving at Hershey, but it was too late. He died early the next morning.

—Caitlin Flanagan

At the national level, all fraternities vehemently prohibit hazing, and spend tremendous energy and money trying to combat it. But according to the most comprehensive study of college hazing, published in 2008 by a *University of Maine* professor named Elizabeth Allan, a full 80 percent of fraternity members report being hazed. It's not an aberration; it's the norm.

—Caitlin Flanagan

The story of black members of historically white fraternities is a complex one. Although the clubs started opening their ranks to African-Americans in the 1950s and '60s, they have few black members; nationally, only 3 percent of *Beta Theta Pi*'s members are black, for example. There is reason to believe that official membership policy and actual practice diverge. In 2015, cell phone video of some *Sigma Alpha Epsilon* members from the *University of Oklahoma* singing a fraternity song became public:

There will never be a n— SAE
There will never be a n— SAE
You can hang him from a tree
But he'll never sing with me
There will never be a n—SAE

—Caitlin Flanagan

When I was in college, when you got in the fraternity house, they hazed you. They made you stay up all night and played records until you went nuts, and you woke in the morning and all of a sudden they got you before a tribunal and question you as to whether you have the credentials to be a fraternity brother. I didn't even know where I was. That was hazing. I don't know what hazing is today.

—Joe Paterno

School is disappointing. If science is exciting and art is exhilarating, the schools and universities have achieved the not inconsiderable feat of rendering both dull. As every scientist and poet knows, one discovers both vocations in spite of, not because of, school. It takes years to recover from the stupor of being taught Shakespeare in English Lit and Wheatstone's bridge in Physics.

—Walker Percy

Once, a few years earlier, Jules had gone to see a play at Ash's theater, and afterward, during the 'talkback,' when the audience asked questions of the playwright and of Ash, who'd directed the production, a woman stood up and said, 'This one is for Ms. Wolf. My daughter wants to be a director too. She's applying to graduate school in directing, but I know very well that there are no jobs, and that she's probably only going to have her dreams dashed. Shouldn't I encourage her to do something else, to find some other field she can get into before too much time goes by?'

And Ash had said to that mother, 'Well, if she's thinking about going into directing, she has to really, really want it. That's the first thing. Because if she doesn't, then there's no point in putting herself through all of this, because it's incredibly hard and dispiriting. But if she does really, really want it, and if she seems to have a talent for it, then I think you should tell her, 'That's wonderful.' Because the truth is, the world will probably whittle your daughter down. But a mother never should.

—Meg Wolitzer

If you have to say something, if you have to encourage for one second a prospective acting student—he should not go into acting.

—Dabney Coleman

The quality of its research varies a great deal. According to one study, even at China's most prestigious academic institutions, a third of scientific papers are faked or plagiarized. Knowing how poorly the country's journals are regarded, Chinese universities are reportedly offering bonuses of up to six figures to researchers who publish in Western journals.

—Ross Andersen

Universities are the custodians not only of the many cultures of man, but of the rational process itself.

—Edward Levi

A very, very up-to-the-minute young lady in one of Raymond Weaver's literature classes at *Columbia* asked him whether he had read a best-seller of the moment. When he confessed that he had not, she cried reproachfully, 'Oh, you'd better hurry up; it's been out for over three months!' 'Young lady,' said Weaver severely, 'have you read Dante's *Divine Comedy*? No? Well, you'd better hurry up; it's been out for over six hundred years.

—Bennet Cerf

Personally, I have no reason to lash out at our system of higher education. Yet a lifetime of experience, plus a quarter century of reading and reflection, his convinced me that it is a big waste of time and money. When politicians vow to send more Americans to college, I can't help gasping, 'Why? You want us to waste even more?'…. First and foremost: From kindergarten on, students spend thousands of hours studying subjects irrelevant to the modern labor market. Why do English classes focus on literature and poetry instead of business and technical writing? Why do advanced-math classes bother with proof almost no student can follow? When will the typical student use history? Trigonometry? Art? Music? Physics? Latin? The class clown who snarks, 'What does this have to do with real life?' is onto something.

—Bryan Caplan

The earnings premium for college graduates has rocketed to 73 percent —that is, those with a bachelor's degree earn, on average, 73 percent more than those who have only a high school diploma, up from about 50 percent in the late 1970s.

—Bryan Caplan

Had it not been for James Meredith, who was willing to risk his life, the *University of Mississippi* would still be all white.

—Constance Baker Motley

The conventional view that education pays because students learn—assumes that the typical student acquires, and retains, a lot of knowledge. She doesn't. Teachers often lament summer learning loss: students know less at the end of summer than they did at the beginning. But summer learning loss is only a special case of the problem of fade-out: Human beings have trouble retaining knowledge they rarely use. Of course, some college graduates use what they've learned and thus hold onto it—engineers and other quantitative types, for example, retain a lot of a math. But when we measure what the average college graduate recalls years later, the results are discouraging, to say the least.

In 2003, the *United States Department of Education* gave about 18,000 Americans the *National Assessment of Adult Literacy*. The ignorance it revealed is mind-numbing. Fewer than a third of college graduates received a composite score of 'proficient'— and about a fifth were at the 'basic' or 'below basic' level. You could blame the difficulty of the questions—until you read them. Plenty of college graduates couldn't make sense of a table explaining how an employee's annual health insurance costs varied with income and family size, or summarizes the work experience requirements in a job ad, or even use a newspaper schedule to find when a television program ended. Tests of college graduates' knowledge of history, civics, and science have had similar dismal results.

—Bryan Caplan

The most focused study of education's effect on applied reasoning, conducted by Harvard's David Perkins in the mid 1980s, assessed students' oral responses to questions designed to measure informal reasoning, such as 'Would a proposed law in Massachusetts requiring a five-cent deposit on bottles and cans significantly reduce litter?' The benefit of college seemed to be zero: Fourth-year students did no better than first-year students.

—Bryan Caplan

Many of our nation's great leaders began their careers at a service academy. I encourage anyone interested in a rewarding college experience or military career to apply as soon as possible.

—Chris Cannon

Fifty years ago, college was a full-time job. The typical student spent 40 hours a week in class or studying. Effort has since collapsed across the board. 'Full time' college students now average 27 hours of academic work a week—including just 14 hours spent studying.

—Bryan Caplan

Would I advise an academically well-prepared 18-year-old to skip college because she won't learn much of value? Absolutely not. Studying irrelevancies for the next four years will impress future employers and raise her income potential. If she tried to leap straight into her first white-collar job, insisting, 'I have the right stuff to graduate, I just choose not to,' employers wouldn't believe her. To unilaterally curtail your education is to relegate yourself to a lower-quality pool of workers. For the individual, college pays.

—Bryan Caplan

The college-for-all mentality has fostered neglect of a realistic substitute: vocational education. It takes many guises—classroom training, apprenticeships and other types of on-the-job training, and straight-up work experience—but they have much in common. All vocational education teaches specific job skills, and all vocational education revolves around learning by doing, not learning by listening. Research, though a bit sparse, suggests that vocational education raises pay, reduces unemployment, and increases the rate of high-school completion.

—Bryan Caplan

Fun statistics for adults!
'When I was a kid, I had no help with college tuition. I was hardworking and paid it all myself.'
—Annual tuition for *Yale*, 1970: $2,550
—Annual tuition for *Yale*, 2014: $45,800
—Minimum Wage, 1970: $1.45
—Minimum Wage, 2014: $7.25
—Daily hours at minimum wage needed to pay for tuition in 1970: 4.8
—Daily hours at minimum wage needed to pay for tuition in 2014: 17.3

—Internet Meme

My years of college education prepared me to function as a registered nurse in multiple health-care settings, but also to read, comprehend, and appreciate the articles… on such wide-ranging topics as economics, science, sociology, politics, and the arts, just to name a few. College is good for building a foundation of knowledge applicable to one's career, but is also valuable in expanding one's world beyond their career.

—Denise Jacob

Freshman year, I was in denial that I was a victim of the freshman fifteen so I just kept telling myself that my face was still swollen from getting my wisdom teeth removed 10 months ago.

—Lily Cozad

When someone has the desire to go to school and has the ability but can't get into our schools, that's wrong. Education drives the economy and the quality of life.

—Jack Miller

The main benefits of a degree are difficult to quantify, but the point is certainly not to prepare students for some sort of economic activity per se. The point of education in the liberal arts is to increase students' ability to cope with the new, the ambiguous, the alien—that which challenges our dearly held beliefs. I can think of no greater skill that a young person can acquire through education, especially at this political moment, than the ability to argue without becoming angry, to disagree without rancor, and to find in differences with others new possibilities about how to live, think, and approach life. This is a crucial function of citizenship not often on display in the U.S. these days, and it is understandably difficult to see if one reduces life to numbers or commerce.

—James K. Foster

Self Application Will Always Beat Education. One of the biggest lies we love to believe is education equals success. It almost hurts as I watch underprepared students dive into denial around graduation time, and instead of taking a course on personal leadership, they say 'I think I'm going to get my master's degree' only to graduate 3 years later with an extra $80,000 in debt and the same inability to make it in the workforce. SADLY, COLLEGE WON'T TEACH YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL.
The university system has sold us an illusion of self-application. Students have been told the magic ticket to a good life is 'go to college and you'll get a good job'. No need for leadership. No need for maturity. No need for people skills. No need for honing passion and drive. No need to learn negotiation. No need for personal application. Just follow the yellow brick road and you'll get there. Wrong. SUCCESS HAS ALMOST NOTHING TO DO WITH EDUCATION. Success is about personal development, self-control, integrity, communication skills, relationships, a learner's heart, and boat loads of uncontainable passion. And most importantly, successful people know we learn by doing, not just learning to do.

—Dale Partridge

Seventy-five percent of people have their first episode of a mental health disorder by age 18. The average amount of time between someone having their first episode and seeking help is about seven years. That's a really long time to further develop ineffective coping mechanisms and have a dysfunctional life.

—Ross Szabo

Because the focus of true fraternity is on people, not things, it is reasonable to expect that those whose experience has been truly fraternal will enjoy lives which are people-centered, avoiding the tragedy of the inversion which uses people to satisfy love of things. It is therefore not surprising that thus far higher education has not come up with a better alternative for fraternity in its true dimensions. A true fraternity is a vehicle for the development of the better man who will help mold the better society—and that is mankind's goal.

—Richard R. Fletcher

25% of college students experience mental health disorders. Young men are more at risk for substance abuse, isolation and violence.
50% of college students don't seek help for their mental health. Young men are less likely to seek help than young women.
Oftentimes ineffective coping mechanisms like drugs and alcohol are being used to self-medicate a mental health issue.

—Fred Dobry

Back in the 1870s, 1880s, class rivalries were very big. The freshmen came on campus and the sophomores considered it their job to haze the freshmen. They'd do all sorts of mean stuff: smoke them out of their rooms, tar and feather them in some extreme cases and just, you know, make them bow to sophomores. Eventually, it coalesced and some sophomores formed a Greek-lettered hazing society in charge of 'educating the freshmen.' It would exist for a couple years, they'd do something stupid, and the administration would dissolve it. In the 1880s, fraternities were becoming very popular, so the sophomores threw some Greek letters onto these societies, called them hazing societies, and said they were very secretive, but the school put an end to them when things got out of hand.

—Charlie Trantanella

My second year of college, when I was pursuing political science and I had to declare the major and answer the question 'Why do you want to pursue political science?,' all I could think of was because my dad wants me to. That was a wake up call: he's not living my life, I am!

—Issa Rae

While undergraduate education concentrates, in the main, on learning a body of knowledge in a wide range of fields, graduate school is essentially about exploring the frontiers of knowledge in a particular field. Hence, the latter is an extension of the former, but differs from it greatly. Being on the frontiers of scholarship (like its geographic counterpart in early American history) is not always a comfortable experience. There are no guideposts to tell you which path to take.

—John Komlos

I once taught an 8 am college class. So many grandparents died that semester. I then moved my class to 3 pm. No more deaths. And that, my friends, is how I save lives.

—Viorica Marian

I could have been a doctor, but there were too many good shows on TV.

—Jason Love

Every semester, on the first day of the expository writing class Sven Birkerts teaches at Harvard University, he asks his students to give him written answers to a few brief questions.

He wants to know about their backgrounds, their high school English classes and their outside reading—specifically, how much they read, what they read, and what their favorite books are.

Simple enough. Yet the responses, Birkerts reports, are heartbreaking. In an article titled 'What, Me Read?' in a recent issue of *Harvard* magazine, he explains that almost none of his students read independently.

Their excuses vary: 'Too busy.' 'I wish I had the time!' 'I've always had a hard time with books that are supposed to be good for me.'

Then, in what might be the ultimate insult to a literature-loving Harvard instructor, some of them proudly admit: 'If I have the time, I like to relax with Stephen King.'

'I can't tell you how many of my best and brightest have written that sentence,' Birkerts notes sadly. 'Stephen King, Stephen King, Stephen King. How rarely someone will cite a reputable 'serious' book—by Milan Kundera, Vladimir Nabokov, Walker Percy, Anne Tyler, anyone.

Nonfiction, he adds, '*is terra incognita*.'

—Marilyn Gardner

*Rate My Professo*r is really something.

For Credit: N/A
Textbook Used: No
Grade Received: NA
Attendance: N/A
Would Take Again: N/A

I never wore my seatbelt while driving to school because I wanted to die before making it to his class.

—*theChive*

When you finish your law degree it's still another four years to become a lawyer. Well, when you finish *International Security Studies and Criminology* it still takes another two years to become a McDonald's Manager.

—*theChive*

[To admit that college isn't for everyone] may sound élitist. It may even sound philistine, since the purpose of a liberal-arts education is to produce well-rounded citizens rather than productive workers. But perhaps it is more foolishly élitist to think that going to school until age 22 is necessary to being well-rounded, or to tell millions of young adults that their futures depend on performing a task that only a minority of them can actually accomplish.

It is absurd that people have to get college degrees to be considered for good jobs in hotel management or accounting—or journalism. It is inefficient, both because it wastes a lot of money and because it locks people who would have done good work out of some jobs. The tight connection between college degrees and economic success may be a nearly unquestioned part of our social order. Future generations may look back and shudder at the cruelty of it.

--Ramesh Ponnuru

Journalism in reality is not the journalism that we learnt in the university. It is far from it.

--Nilantha Ilangamuwa

Barbara Anne, a freshman at Wellesley, came home to her tiny hometown for Christmas, and hastened to tell her father who was waiting at the station to bundle her her into the family station wagon, 'Paw, there's something you might as well know right off. I ain't a good girl any more.' Paw clapped one hand to his forehead and cried out, 'Twenty years your maw and I have made sacrifices so's you could go to a smart Eastern college, and what happens? You come home after three full months there—and you're still saying 'ain't'!'

—Bennett Cerf

My roommates and their classmates are burning & sacrificing an animal cracker to pray for their Greek final to be canceled. A snackrifice.

—Anna Borges

Mingling with the throng that poured out of a California University stadium after a big game, a visiting Easterner enthused to his host, head of the chemistry department, 'What a plant you have here! What a campus! How many students would you say you have?' The chemistry prof answered sourly, 'About one in a thousand.'

—Bennett Cerf

Most of us are taught to put on our best face for the world, to convince others of how brilliant we are. 'If you don't know something,' my mother instructed me from a very young age, 'just fake it.' That likely explains why I ended up a college professor.

—Dinty W. Moore

When Herbert Wise, the chess champion, returned to the fresh water college he had attended in his youth, the prexy suggested that he have a look at the dormitory room he had occupied as a student. The lad who was living there at the time unfortunately had chosen this evening to smuggle in a beautiful young co-ed to help him with his history—a gross infraction of rules. When he heard the president and Mr. Wise in the hall, he hid the girl hastily in the clothes closet.
Wise looked at the familiar old room, sighed, and remarked, 'Same old desk, same old chairs.' Then he open the closet door, saw the flustered co-ed, and said softly, 'and same old girl!'
'It's my sister, sir,' stammered the young man.
'And the same old lie!' chortled Wise.

—Bennett Cerf

A multimillionaire in the Southwest, piratical in his younger days, but anxious to recapture the esteem of fellow-citizens in his dotage, overwhelmed the dean of the local college with a very generous donation. The wise old dean decided that the first thing to do with the unexpected funds was to hire a competent new head of the English department. The salary offered was generous, and so many applicants turned up for the job that they had to double up in the rooms of the only hotel in town.
The field narrowed down to two: one, Mr. Whitmore, a rather wistful, graying, and unquestionably erudite man of fifty; the other, Mr. Collins, a loquacious, bouncy chap at least twenty years younger, looked more like a football coach and unquestionably had away with him as far as the students were concerned. As luck would have it, the two men shared the same room.
The dean and his advisers found it so hard to make a final choice that they decided to leave it all to a public address in the college chapel on the subject of Elizabeth literature. Whitmore spent three agonizing days writing his speech and memorizing it; his younger rival seemingly did no preparatory work at all, and continued making time with the local belles. Just before the contestants walked over to the chapel, however, Whitmore made a disquieting discovery. The typewritten copy of his speech had disappeared.
The gathering was called to order, and Collins, the younger contestant, given priority. While his rival watched with helpless despair, he calmly pulled the purloined speech out of his pocket and read it so eloquently that the audience rewarded him with a burst of cheers.

Now it was Whitmore's turn. The speech he had written contains everything he had to say. He was too shattered by the turn of events to improvise or try a new tack. With his face burning with embarrassment, and the surprised audience wriggling in its seats, he could only repeat the speech, word for word, that Collins had delivered so eloquently before him. As he bumbled on, however, the wise old dean's eyes never left his face.

The trustees retired to reach what appeared to be foregone conclusion. Collins was so sure of his victory that he patted his silent rival on the back and said in a patronizing tone, 'Don't take it too hard, pop. After all, only one of us could win.' Then the dean came back and announced his decision.
Mr. Whitmore had been chosen for the post!
'You are entitled to know how we made her choice,' the dean told the surprised audience. 'All of us, of course, were surprised by the eloquence and erudition of Mr. Collins. I, for one, didn't know he had in him. But you will remember that Mr. Collins read his speech to us. When Mr. Whitmore came before us, he repeated from memory every word of that same speech, although it is inconceivable that he ever heard a line of it before in his life. What a memory, gentleman! And since a fine memory is an invaluable asset for a teacher of Elizabethan literature, we decided that Mr. Whitmore was the man we have been praying for.'
As Whitmore, dazed but happy, was leaving the campus, the old dean came up and whispered in his ear, 'When you're on our faculty, my boy, if I were you, I wouldn't leave my valuable papers lying about carelessly.'

–Bennett Cerf

The first college football game took place in New Brunswick, in 1869, with *Rutgers* beating *Princeton*, 6 goals to 4. *Rutgers* didn't repeat the victory until November 5, 1938!… Some of the *Princeton* spectators tried to intimidate the sons of *Rutgers* with a bloodcurdling yell that they had used themselves as a battle cry in the Civil War. Thus was born the college cheer.

—Bennett Cerf

An architect suggested Gothic style for a new building on the *University of Chicago* campus. 'Let's write and ask the people at *Oxford* what they have to say on the subject,' suggested a member of the committee. Back came a letter from an *Oxford* don: 'I'm sorry to inform you we have not used Gothic at this University for the past 600 years!'

—Bennett Cerf

In 2012, students from *Birmingham City Schools* who took part in music or choral programs earned $2,336,200 in college scholarships.

—Dr. Debora Mayes

This is actually important: you are going to college to learn, to determine the career you want to go into. You're not going thousands of dollars into student loan debt to spend all of your time getting drunk and partying. While college is typically a time to experiment and have fun, please remember that you're there for a higher purpose —your future. Being known as the partier may seem fun at first, but when it's finals time and everybody you know is cracking open a book, the last thing they want is you pouring shots. You don't want to miss out on the best moments of your college career because you got blackout drunk and can't remember anything.

—Shea Lazansky

Take your classes seriously. Take 8 a.m.s. Don't roll out of bed and wear your pajamas to class—trust me, professors will like you a whole lot more if you dress like you care about your classes. Take classes in areas you've never heard of; most colleges require a certain amount of gen. ed. classes and electives to graduate, and that can give you a chance to try something fun. Just because you have to learn stuff doesn't mean you have to learn things that bore you.

—Shea Lazansky

Fraternities and the sororities: they're not all about partying and being the most attractive people on campus. Most schools have service fraternities or sororities, and even if they don't, fraternities and sororities most often have strict requirements when it comes to the grades of their members. Spending all of your time partying and letting your grades and service obligations slide is a super easy way to get kicked out fast.

—Shea Lazansky

My 16-year-old daughter is sitting on a couch, talking with a stranger about her dreams for the future. We're here, ominously enough, because, she says, 'all my friends are doing it.' For a moment, I wonder whether we have unintentionally signed up for some kind of therapy. The professional woman in the smart-casual suit throws me a pointed glance and says, 'It's normal to be anxious at a time like this.' She does see herself as a therapist of sorts. But she does not yet seem to know that the source of my anxiety is the idea of shelling out for a $12,000 'base package' of college counseling services whose chief purpose is apparently to reduce my anxiety. Determined to get something out of this trial counseling session, I push for recommendations on summer activities. We leave with a tip on a 10-day 'cultural tour' of France for high schoolers. In the college application business, that's what's known as an 'enrichment experience.' When we get home, I look it up. The price of enrichment: $11,000 for the 10 days.

—Matthew Stewart

I'm wondering whether life was easier in the old days, when you could buy a spot in the elite university of your choice with cold cash. Then I remind myself that Grandfather lasted only one year at Yale. In those days, the Ivies kicked you out if you weren't ready for action. Today, you have to self-combust in a newsworthy way before they show you the door.

—Matthew Stewart

The mother lode of all affirmative action programs for the wealthy, of course, remains the private school. Only 2.2 percent of the nation's students graduate from nonsectarian private high schools, and yet these graduates account for 26 percent of students at Harvard and 28 percent of students at Princeton.

—Matthew Stewart

Ten years after starting college, according to data from the *Department of Education*, the top decile of earners from all schools had a median salary of $68,000. But the top decile from the 10 highest-earning colleges raked in $220,000 —make that $250,000 for No. 1, *Harvard*—and the top decile at the next 30 colleges took home $157,000. (Not surprisingly, the top 10 had an average acceptance rate of 9 percent, and the next 30 were at 19 percent.

—Matthew Stewart

I believe one of the reasons so many do not get a higher education is the fear of their parents that they will lose more morally than they will receive mentally.

—William Jennings Bryan

I spent the morning at *Tuskogee*, that living monument to Booker T. Washington. They have a great idea there that some of our schools are copying. They teach the pupils that they are going to have to work, and how to work. Our old mode of college education was teach 'em so they think they won't have to work.

—Will Rogers

I was there to get a Ph.D. in English literature. That's not true. I was there to read a lot of books and to discuss them with bright, insightful, book-loving people, an expectation that I pretty quickly learned was about as silly as it could be. Certainly there were other people who loved books, I'm sure there were, but whoever had notified them ahead of time that loving books was not the point, was, in fact, a hopelessly counterproductive and naive approach to the study of literature, neglected to notify me. It turned out that the point was to dissect a book like a fetal pig in biology class or to break its back with a single sentence or to bust it open like a milkweed pod and say, 'See? All along it was only fluff,' and then scatter it into oblivion with one tiny breath.

--Marisa de los Santos

In the past few years I've assigned books to be read before a student attends one of my weeklong seminars. I have been astonished by how few people—people who supposedly want to write—read books, and if they read them, how little they examine them.

—Natalie Goldberg

Failing to get your kid into *Stanford* is not a life-altering calamity.

—Matthew Stewart

You must realize that honorary degrees are given generally to people whose SAT scores were too low to get them into schools the regular way. As a matter of fact, it was my SAT scores that led me into my present vocation in life, comedy.

—Neil Simon

People with honorary awards are looked upon with disfavor; would you let an honorary mechanic fix your brand-new Mercedes?

—Neil Simon

School children, who have enjoyed reading a romance or a detective thriller or a novel about terror and conquest, make the invariable mistake of studying literature in the college. They make the mistake of learning theory in place of art; they acquire impediments in their own enjoyment of the books by allowing a set of theories to govern their own reading.

—Anuradha
Bhattacharyya

A recent *bankrate.com* report ranked actuarial science—the formal term for the study of insurance—the most valuable college major.
Actuarial-science majors earn an average annual salary of $108,658 and have a better-than-average unemployment rate of only 2.3 percent.
And at a time when student debt has hit a record high, these graduates are less likely to incur the added expense of additional schooling and delayed earning potential.

—Riley Griffin (2018)

Have you ever noticed that the impression other countries have of America and Americans is very similar to the idea Americans have of 'frat houses' and 'frat boys?' Given the hubris, hypocrisy, depravity, and chauvinism that distinguishes the United States on the world stage, shouldn't this connection be further explored?

—Andrew Moisey

Historical black colleges and universities like *Delaware State*, attracted students who were raised in an environment where going to college wasn't the next natural step after high school.

—Michael N. Castle

Every year millions of college students need to decide what to study. This is a very important and difficult decision, made under pressure from parents, friends, and professors who have varying interests and opinions. It is also influenced by students' own individual fears and fantasies, which are themselves shaped by movies, novels, and advertising campaigns. Complicating matters, a given student does not really know what it takes to succeed in a given profession, and doesn't necessarily have a realistic sense of his or her own strengths and weaknesses.

—Yuval Noah Harari

However difficult getting into college may have been, it turns out, that may have been the easiest part of the transition to college life, admissions officials say. Inadequate preparation, unrealistic expectations and other issues that college freshmen don't anticipate can become important obstacles to happiness and success. With about one third of undergraduates transferring at one point in their careers and an even bigger percentage dropping out for financial and other reasons, staying in college is becoming increasingly hard for many students….
When asked about their greatest academic concerns in the transition to college, high school seniors cited everything from procrastination and effective time management to worries about large classes and 'mean' professors who might weed students out of their intended major. Increased reading demands, workload and insecurity about writing ability also weigh heavily on the minds of college bound students. The most honest and transparent high school seniors shared anxiety about 'feeling inferior to classmates' and 'not being smart enough to handle college.' This fear of not being 'enough' was also exposed as students anticipated the social aspects of college. One student shared, 'I am worried that I am too introverted and I won't have time to relax while still making friends.' Another explained, 'My biggest concern is that my first impression won't be the best representation of the type of person I actually am.'" The most significant worries about transitioning to college life are roommate issues, followed by fears of not making close friends, the 'hookup' culture, the party scene and generally fitting in. One student wrote, 'I worry that people will be going out on weekdays and I will have to choose between being with friends and getting my work done.' Mike Sexton, vice president for enrollment management at *Santa Clara University* in California counters the anxiety with this message for incoming students: 'Be confident. We selected you for a reason. Be humble. We admitted everyone else for reasons, too. No one knows your past identity and accomplishments and everyone is as smart as you.'

—Valerie Strauss

Students who actively engage in campus life in and out of the classroom are those who are happiest with their college experience, least likely to transfer and more likely to graduate. Whether through an intercollegiate or intramural sport, a club or a social group, creating connection early in college makes all the difference. It is easier to join activities from the start and ease off if it gets to be too much than not to do anything and try to join established networks once they have formed.
One college student advised incoming students to 'make an attempt to get further involved right away.' He wrote: 'I wish I had really explored the options for clubs on campus. The club fair usually happens early in the year, and I wish I had taken the time to truly explore what the offerings were instead of defaulting to clubs that were similar to what I did in high school. Although I joined some different clubs in my sophomore and junior year, I wish I had known about them earlier.'

—Valerie Strauss

Ancient Greeks and modern Greeks—fraternities, I mean—have special festivals where they worship the side of being human that is drunkenness, theater, performance, disregard for all social codes, especially respectability. For ancient Greeks that was part of the festival of Dionysus. American fraternities are the last institution in the modern world where Dionysus is found.

—Andrew Moisey

Don't expect everything to be perfect. You will have good days and bad days, great professors and mediocre ones, good friends and lousy ones. Push yourself to connect with your faculty. The students who are willing to meet with faculty and ask for help and support are often the happiest and most successful.

—Jason Honsel

There is absolutely no handholding. No professor will check in on you, nor will your peers. If you want to do absolutely nothing, you can do absolutely nothing. I knew about this going into college, but it is another thing to experience it first hand. You will do poorly if you let yourself do poorly. That having been said, if you reach out to professors or peers, college is extremely manageable.

—Anonymous College Student

The greatest myth is that college is the best four years of their lives. If this is true, then they're in for very depressing lives.

—Heath Einstein

Anything in excess is bad—sleeping, eating, partying, studying, exercising, etc. Learn moderation and balance.

—Scott Chrysler

Students have preconceived notions from various sources (movies, books, social media) about what college 'should be.' They expect college to be so many things in different realms (academic, social, etc) and if the college they chose doesn't seem to fit their expectations right away, they often lose interest in trying to succeed.

— Kate Jacobson

People constantly tell kids this prior to going off to school. Then, when transition is hard and inevitable bumps occur, they question if they're doing something wrong, or missing out, or perhaps chose the wrong school. The truth is college years are not the best of your life. They're just incredibly unique. There's a big difference.

—Rick Clark

Make an effort NOT to wear high school gear, put out pictures of a high school crew or sweetheart, or talk constantly about the glory days. Be open to new folks, listen to their stories, and don't box yourself in by your previous life. These subtle messages from your clothes, images, and stories send messages and may turn away folks whom you really want to know or relationships that you want to forge.

—Matthew DeGreeff

Students who form a relationship or connection with an adult other than a faculty member retain at a higher rate: get to know the people at your work study job or at the library or in student affairs. There are so many resources at college. Learn to take advantage of them; you just need to ask.

—Deb Shaver

In high school, there are a lot of extrinsic factors that motivate students—parents making sure you get up in the morning and get to school, teachers that take attendance and stay on you about schoolwork, and even school officials that make sure you are going to classes and getting involved in things outside the classroom. Students are held accountable. In college, many of those extrinsic factors and accountability measures go away. Students have to decide if they are going to get out of bed in the morning and go to class. Many college classes don't require attendance, so students can just skip with no 'consequence.' Days are less structured, and students have more freedom to decide if they are going to immerse themselves academically, socially, etc. If they haven't found intrinsic motivating factors or have no idea what really motivates them in general, that can be a big struggle for many as they transition to college life.

—Shane McGuire

In urging Congress to create a national university in 1796, George Washington said: 'A primary object of such a national institution should be the education of our youth in the science of government.'

—Jeffrey Rosen

Be ready to ask for help, from many different sources. Make friends with your resident assistants, your teaching assistants/professors, and the dining hall staff. Do not skip class. Be comfortable with discomfort, and seek out the unknown. Join at least one club or team in the first two weeks to start building a social network and a schedule beyond the academic day. Get a job, on campus if you can: studies show working 10-12 hours a week leads to higher grades, graduating on time, and building a network for your resume. When you are feeling lonely, don't go on social media to connect with all your high school friends; instead, go down the hall and make friends with someone new.

—Moira McKinnon

One of the biggest struggles I see students face is their own ego and confidence. Many have always been the smartest in the room. They were the tutor in high school and academic success came relatively easy. When they get to campus and are surrounded by a bunch of other top 5 percent students, they can question their identity and place. The humility to reach out early is understandably hard but absolutely essential.

—Rick Clark

You need about six canisters of Lysol wipes for your dorm room. You will never use the miniature ironing board. Vacuum your rug weekly. Nap often. Be nice to your parents the summer before—they are as anxious as you are but they're also sad.

—Anonymous College Student

Thirty-three percent of college students are taking at least one online course, according to the *Center for Online Education*….Some courses, even at large state universities, are only offered online. My daughter, a traditional nursing student taking on-campus courses, has one blended and one online course because those courses are only offered in those formats. If K-12 schools are going to prepare students properly for college or careers, online experiences are essential.

—Steve Baule

More than 20 percent of college students experienced stressful events in the past year that were associated with mental health problems, including harming themselves and suicidal thoughts or attempts….Some of the most common reasons college students seek help from mental health experts are academic stress, relationship concerns, conflict with their family or social group, or identity issues. Triggers that are often under-appreciated but frequently play a large role in feelings of stress or depression include substance abuse, shape or weight concerns, lack of structure and a feeling of not having a clear direction moving forward.

—Dr. Laura Chang

Phone down. Eyes up. Breathe deep.

—Bianca Bosker

Just because you went to college doesn't make you smarter than anyone else….Common sense doesn't come with a degree.

—*facebook.com/auntyacid*

No form of hazing is OK. While taping players to goal posts or stuffing them in lockers might see like harmless fun, hazing has a tendency to escalate. Researchers found that 13 percent of kids who were hazed wanted revenge, and that doesn't bode well. The kids who were hazed the previous year tend to be the hazers the next year. What they do is ratchet it up a notch, make it a little more degrading, make it a little more dangerous.

—Hank Nuwer and
Norman Pollard

GOING TO COLLEGE 1988
Do ok in school, take SAT, apply to three colleges, get into college.

GOING TO COLLEGE 2018
Take AP classes, stress, take SAT prep course, take SAT, stress, hire essay coach, up volunteer hours, take ACT, give *FAFSA* more information than is required for *CIA* clearance, acquire letters of recommendation, stress some more, take SAT again, play a sport, work a job, ask your parents for a million dollars for college applications, keep stressing, and then pray that you maybe get into one of the dozen colleges you're applying to.

—*https://grownandflown.com*

The greatest and cheapest university—where great teachers abound, the classes are free and there's never any crowding—is just a library card away. Reading…is the best teacher.

—Mary Gordon

You can't learn to write in college. It's a very bad place for writers because the teachers always think they know more than you do—and they don't. They have prejudices. They may like Henry James, but what if you don't want to write like Henry James? They may like John Irving, for instance, who's the bore of all time. A lot of the people whose work they've taught in the schools for the last thirty years, I can't understand why people read them and why they are taught. The library, on the other hand, has no biases. The information is all there for you to interpret. You don't have someone telling you what to think. You discover it for yourself.

—Ray Bradbury

Many students have absorbed the idea that love is secondary to academic and professional success—or, at any rate, is best delayed until these other things have been secured. 'Over and over,' she [Alexandra Solomon, psychology professor] has written, 'my undergraduates tell me they try hard not to fall in love during college, imagining that would mess up their plans.'

—Kate Julian

I've come to the stage when I know what I want to do with my future. I want to write, and that's all, and I need no study of such quaint American writers as Cotton Mather or Philip Freneau — both of whom we are studying in *American Lit*—to increase my perception or outlook on literature and life. For a person whose sole burning ambition is to write—like myself—college is useless beyond the Sophomore year. By that time he knows that further wisdom comes from reading men like Plato and Montaigne—not Cotton Mather—and from getting out in the world and living. All of the rest of the scholarship in English literature is for pallid, prim and vapid young men who will end up teaching and devoting 30 years of their sterile lives in investigating some miserably obscure facet of the life of some minor Renaissance poet. Sure, scholarship is necessary, but its [sic] not for me. I'm going to write, and I'll spend the rest of my days on a cattle-boat or jerking sodas before I teach.

—William Styron

By all accounts, incivility is increasing, resulting in stifled debate and a degradation of truth. Voids of leadership are emerging in virtually every aspect of our society, including within our families, businesses, institutions, and in all political parties. Leadership and vision are needed as much now as at any time in our history. The Greek system…is uniquely qualified to develop the leaders needed for our society's future. Done right, our Fraternity's local chapters provide unparalleled incubators for leadership development….Expect the Best. Nothing Less.

—John Hearn

Culture Shock rocked my literary sensibilities lately during a casual conversation with a recent college graduate. At the graduation party of this 'Straight A' biology major headed to *Harvard* medical school, I led the obligatory, congratulatory chit chat by asking him if he'd read anything interesting or exciting lately. He looked at me as if I were from Mars and literally said, 'I don't read. The only thing I do read are textbooks I need to read for classes.' In my own life regardless of how busy or engaged I've been, I've always read and find it disappointing highly-educated others do not read for pleasure.

—Dan L. Miller

The ancient Greeks and Romans had no universities. Their instruction in law, rhetoric, and philosophy, although, excellent, did not take place in permanent institutions of learning. Many students sat at the feet of Socrates over the many years of his teaching career, but not one diploma did he issue. Not until the twelfth century did academics create the physical institutions modern students would recognize as a college. The organization of instruction represented by faculties and colleges and courses of study, examinations and commencements and academic degrees beginning in the Middle Ages makes today's university student the heir not of Athens but of Paris and Bologna.

—Dan L. Miller

Student in the Bursar's Office: 'Instead of repaying my student loan, I'm returning my diploma…it didn't work.'

—Jeff Stahler

Isn't is wild that the ballots from all 50 states can be counted in one night but my professors can't get my scantron graded for 2 weeks.

—Internet Meme

The girl in my bio lecture fell asleep and the guy beside her took her clicker and answered all the questions so she still got credit.

—Internet Meme

'Why were teachers colleges called 'normal schools'?' Thank France; the phrase is derived from '*ećole normale*,' which was used for institutions designed to instill standards of pedagogy and curriculum in teachers-to-be.… America's first state-sponsored normal school opened in Massachusetts in 1839, at the urging of public-education champion Horace Mann; it is now *Framingham State University*. More arose through the mid-19th century, in parallel with the development of public schools, then called 'common schools.' By the 1930s, however, most normal school were calling themselves 'teachers colleges.'

—Anna Diamond

Colleges and well-intentioned parents alike can play a crucial role in perpetuating inequity in higher education by prioritizing the acceptance of white, wealthy, and male students to meet their bottom line. The real scourge of higher education isn't affirmative action, but wealthy families who will pay any price to prioritize their own children and keep their family's elite status alive.

—Anonymous Former
Admissions
Counselor

When he [Theodore Roosevelt] attended the [*Harvard*] overseers' meetings he 'felt like a bull-dog who had strayed into a symposium of perfectly clean, white Persian cats.'

—Peter Collier

It wasn't until we dropped him at his university dormitory and left him there looking touchingly lost and bewildered amid an assortment of cardboard boxes and suitcases in a spartan room not unlike a prison cell that it really hit home that he was vanishing out of our lives and into his own.

—Bill Bryson

In graduate school, early on, I once overheard a classmate talking in her office as I walked by. She didn't know I was there. She was gossiping about me to a group of our classmates & said I was the affirmative-action student...Rationally, I know it was absurd, but hearing how she & maybe others saw me hurt real bad...I stopped joking about being a slacker. I tripled the number of projects I was involved with. I was excellent most of the time. I fell short some of the time. I made sure I got good grades. I made sure my comprehensive exams were solid. I wrote conference proposals & had them accepted. I published. I designed an overly ambitious research project for my dissertation that kind of made me want to die. No matter what I did, I heard that girl, that girl who had accomplished a fraction of a fraction of what I had, telling a group of our peers I was the one who did not deserve to be in our program.

—Roxane Gay

Once poets began moving into universities, they abandoned the working-class heterogeneity of Greenwich Village and North Beach for the professional homogeneity of academia. At first they existed on the fringes of English departments, which was probably healthy. Without advanced degrees or formal career paths, poets were recognized as special creatures. They were allowed—like aboriginal chieftains visiting an anthropologist's campsite—to behave according to their own laws. But as the demand for creative writing grew, the poet's job expanded from merely literary to administrative duties. At the university's urging, these self-trained writers designed history's first institutional curricula for young poets. Creative writing evolved from occasional courses taught within the English department into its own undergraduate major or graduate-degree program. Writers fashioned their academic specialty in the image of other university studies. As the new writing departments multiplied, the new professionals patterned their infrastructure—job titles, journals, annual conventions, organizations—according to the standards not of urban bohemia but of educational institutions. Out of the professional networks this educational expansion created, the subculture of poetry was born.

—Dana Gioia (1991)

Oxford University is older than start of the Aztec civilization. Although the campus we know today is much newer, *Oxford* began teaching in some form all the way back in the year 1096. By most accounts, the Aztecs didn't begin their civilization until the beginning of the 13th century.

—Andy Golder

College is the opposite of kidnapping. They demand $100k from you or they'll send your kid back.

—*theChive*

I've learned one thing, and that's to quit worrying about stupid things. You have four years to be irresponsible here, relax. Work is for people with jobs. You'll never remember class time, but you'll remember the time you wasted hanging out with your friends. So stay out late. Go out with your friends on a Tuesday when you have a paper due on Wednesday. Spend money you don't have. Drink 'til sunrise. The work never ends, but college does.

—Tom Petty

The grass is full of ghosts tonight. The whole campus is alive with them…. What we feel now is the sense of all the gorgeous youth that has rioted through here in two hundred years.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

There isn't a child who hasn't gone out into the brave new world who eventually doesn't return to the old homestead carrying a bundle of dirty clothes.

—Art Buchwald

Helping your eldest to pick a college is one of the greatest educational experiences of life—for the parents. Next to trying to pick his bride, it's the best way to learn that your authority, if not entirely gone, is slipping fast.

—Sally and James Reston

Once a musician has enough ability to get into a top music school, the thing that distinguishes one performer from another is how hard he or she works. That's it. And what's more, the people at the very top don't work just harder or even much harder than everyone else. They work much, much harder.

—Malcolm Gladwell

The more expensive a school is, the more crooks it has—I'm not kidding.

—J. D. Salinger

The university's opportunity does not end in its own community. The world is its parish, for its students come from every land. They are returned to their own people with higher ideals and larger vision for her life work, whatever it may be.

—Estelle Frances Ward

Research shows fraternity membership connects men to the university in a way nonmembers simply don't experience. They're more satisfied aa student and alumni and are more likely to recommend and give back to their alma maters. Research shows that this connection can create a strong sense of belonging, leading members to have more positive mental health and less anxiety and depression than other students.

—Dr. Dawn Wiese

Universities are of course hostile to geniuses, which, seeing and using ways of their own, discredit the routine: as churches and monasteries persecute youthful saints.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

I am willing to admit that some people might live there for years, or even a lifetime, so protected that they never sense the sweet stench of corruption that is all around them—the keen, thin scent of decay that pervades everything and accuses with a terrible accusation the superficial youthfulness, the abounding undergraduate noise, that fills those ancient buildings.

--Thomas Merton

Parents paid for fixers to assist with, and in some cases to take, tests for students to ensure a 'Goldilocks' score for their preferred school—not too low to shut them out but not too high to raise suspicions. Add these crimes to other recent SAT testing scandals in Asia and the Harvard University discrimination lawsuits and it becomes clear this anachronistic assessment system need to go away—sooner rather than later.

—Kevin Hogan

Stop thinking that because you have a college degree it makes you smart. I know a lot of people that have driver's licenses and can't drive.

—*oldtimers.com*

No university in the world has ever risen to greatness without a correspondingly great library...When this is no longer true, then will our civilization have come to an end.

—Lawrence Clark Powell

College should be a springboard for giving more than you're taking in life.

—Douglas Brinkley

I spent three days a week for 10 years educating myself in the public library, and it's better than college. People should educate themselves—you can get a complete education for no money. At the end of 10 years, I had read every book in the library and I'd written a thousand stories.

—Ray Bradbury

A poem is, after all, a fragile thing, and its intrinsic worth or lack thereof, is a frighteningly subjective consideration; but fellowship grants, degrees, appointments, and publications are objective facts. They are quantifiable; they can be listed on a resume.

—Bruce Bawer

Poets serious about making careers in institutions understand that the criteria of success are primarily quantitative. They must publish as much as possible as quickly as possible. The slow maturation of genuine creativity looks like laziness to a committee. Wallace Stevens was forty-three when his first book appeared. Robert Frost was thirty-nine. Today these sluggards would be unemployable.

—Mark Edmundson

Today poetry is a modestly upwardly mobile, middle-class profession—not as lucrative as waste management or dermatology but several big steps above the squalor of bohemia. Only a philistine would romanticize the blissfully banished artistic poverty of yesteryear. But a clear-eyed observer must also recognize that by opening the poet's trade to all applicants and by employing writers to do something other than write, institutions have changed the social and economic identity of the poet from artist to educator. In social terms the identification of poet with teacher is now complete. The fist question one poet now asks another upon being introduced is 'Where do you teach?' The problem is not that poets teach. The campus is not a bad place for a poet to work. It's just a bad place for all poets to work. Society suffers by losing the imagination and vitality that poets brought to public culture. Poetry suffers when literary standards are forced to conform with institutional ones.

—Mark Edmundson

When I tell people I went to library school, the most common reaction is either 'You're joking, right?' or 'They have schools for librarians? Do they teach you how to properly sssh people?'

— Scott Douglas

Libraries are a pillar of any society. I believe our lack of attention to funding and caring for them properly in the United States has a direct bearing on problems of literacy, productivity, and our inability to compete in today's world. Libraries are everyman's free university.

—John Jakes

Poetry teachers especially at the high school and undergraduate levels, should spend less time on analysis and more on performance. Poetry needs to be liberated from literary criticism. Poems should be memorized, recited, and performed. The sheer joy of the art must be emphasized. The pleasure of performance is what first attracts children to poetry, the sensual excitement of speaking and hearing the words of the poem. Performance was also the teaching technique that kept poetry vital for centuries. Maybe it also holds the key to poetry's future.

—Mark Edmunson

In 1970, when the golden age of the American middle class was nearing its peak and inequality was at its nadir, only about half of Americans ages 25 and older had a high-school degree or the equivalent. Today, 90 percent do. Meanwhile, the proportion of Americans attaining a college degree has more than tripled since 1970.

—Nick Hanauer (2019)

Workers with a college degree enjoy a significant wage premium over those without. (Among people over age 25, those with a bachelor's degree had median annual earnings of $53,882 in 2017, compared with $32,320 for those with only a high-school education.) But even with that advantage, adjusted for inflation, average hourly wages for recent college graduates have barely budged since 2000, while the bottom 60 percent of college graduates earn less than that group did in 2000. A college diploma is no longer a guaranteed passport into the middle class.

—Nick Hanauer (2019)

Elite universities that just few decades ago accepted 30 percent of their applicants now accept less than 10 percent. The shift at certain institutions has been even more dramatic: The University of Chicago admitted 71 percent of its applicants as recently as 1995. In 2019 it admitted less than 6 percent.

—Daniel Markovits
(2019)

Black athletes have attracted money and attention to the predominantly white universities that showcase them. Meanwhile, black colleges are struggling. Alabama's athletic department generated $17 million in the 2016-17 school year, whereas the HBCU [historically black colleges and universities] that generated the most money from athletics that year, Prairie View A&M, brought in less than $18 million. Beyond sports, the average HBCU endowment is only one-eighth that of the average predominantly white school; taken together, all of the HBCU endowments combined make up less than a tenth of *Harvard's*.

—Jemele Hill

How can med students be sick, like, bro, just look at your notes.

—*@floofyginger*

Despite constituting only 3 percent of four-year colleges in the country, HBCUs have produced 80 percent of the black judges, 50 percent of the black lawyers, 50 percent of the black doctors, 40 percent of the black members of Congress, and 13 percent of the black CEOs in America today. (They have also produced this election cycle's only black female candidate for the U.S. presidency: Kamala Harris is a 1986 graduate of Howard University.)

—Jemele Hill (2019)

Some black students feel safer, both physically and emotionally, on an HBCU campus—all the more so as racial tensions have risen in recent years. Navigating a predominantly white campus as a black student can feel isolating, even for athletes.

—Jemele Hill

If promising black student athletes chose to attend HBCUs in greater numbers, they would, at a minimum, bring some welcome attention and money to beleaguered black colleges, which invested in black people when there was no athletic profit to reap. More revolutionarily, perhaps they could disrupt the reign of an 'amateur' sports system that uses the labor of black folks to make white folks rich.

—Jemele Hill

Kindness appears to be in decline. A rigorous analysis of annual surveys of American college students showed a substantial drop from 1979 to 2009 in empathy and in imagining the perspectives of others. Over this period, students grew less likely to feel concern for people less fortunate than themselves—and less bothered by being others treated unfairly.

—Adam Grant and
Allison Sweet
Grant

Just watched one of my teens struggle for 10 minutes to use a can opener on a can of soup with a pull tab. The good news: She did get the can open, & that's likely one less college tuition for us.

—Stephanie Ortiz

[College] is a perfect storm of (1) high schools engaging in massive grade inflation and not fully preparing our kids for what lies ahead; (2) our generation's over-involved, fix-it style of parenting; and (3) social media/technology and the strange dichotomy of these platforms meant to connect us that often do just the opposite…. this generation, termed GenZ…[is] also depressingly termed 'the loneliest generation.' Record numbers of students are facing anxiety, depression, mental health issues, and suicide ideations on campuses ill-equipped to deal with the sheer volume.

—Priscilla Beth Baker

Dozens of the nation's elite colleges have more children of the 1 percent than from families in the bottom 60 percent of family income.

—Raj Chetty

High school teachers: 'College exams are really important and super hard! You have to make time to actually study!!'

An actual question that I just had on my final exam:

30. Answer 'A' so we have an even 30 questions.
    a. Correct
    b. Not this one.
    c. Answer A, Please
    d. B, C, and D are wrong. Bubble in 'A' for question 30.

—*@bethwatkinss*

dresses up in high school
Omg! you look great!
dresses up in college
where are u going?
do u have a date?
is there a funeral?
are u ok?

—*@CollegeStudent*

For low-income students, math is often an impenetrable barrier to academic success. Algebra II, which includes polynomials and logarithms, and is required by the new Common Core curriculum standards used by 47 states and territories, drives dropouts at both the high school and college levels. The situation is most dire at public colleges, which are the most likely to require abstract algebra as a precondition for a degree in every field, including art and theater.

—Dana Goldstein

Math professors, consumed by their esoteric, super-specialized research, simply don't care very much about the typical undergraduate. At universities with graduate programs, tenure-track faculty members teach only 10 percent of introductory math classes. At undergraduate colleges, tenure-track professors handle 42 percent of introductory classes. Graduate students and adjuncts shoulder the vast majority of the load, and they aren't inspiring many students to continue their math education. In 2013, only 1 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded were in math. In a way, math departments throughout the country don't worry. They have big budgets because their classes are required, so they keep on going.

—Andrew Hacker

Jefferson [Thomas], who had begged to enroll at 'the College' at age 16, nurtured an ambivalence about *William & Mary* that eventually hardened into distaste. His late-in-life account of his time there almost invariably cast the school in a negative light. The campus was full of rowdy and haughty young men who looked down on the townspeople of Williamsburg and were given to drink, debauchery, and violence….students gathered in the gallery of the Williamsburg church during services and spat and urinated on the townspeople below. The capstone of these chaotic events had the students shooting off guns and whipping some captive apprentices. The students' adolescence was part of the problem. They lacked judgement. But these young men, born and raised in a slave society, were also used to having unbridled power over other human beings. They carried this sense of entitlement with them to college….the students had no interest in subjecting themselves to the hard course of study…and the school's dependence on fees meant that when the young men acted out, they too often escaped punishment, lest their parents object and remove them from the school.

—Annette Gordon-Reed

The minutes of the [*Northwestern University*] Board of Trustees meeting on June 23, 1869, could not have been simpler: 'Resolved that we approve of the admission of young women to the classes of the university upon the same terms and conditions as young men.'

As in any significant change, of course, the truth was much more complicated. The *Chicago Tribune* reported the next day that several board members had resisted passing the motion for hours. At the very least, they argued, women would retire extra supervision to keep them out of trouble, and even worse, their mere presence could damage the University's reputation.

It would take a conflagration and major reorganization before Sarah Rebecca Roland became the first woman to receive a *Northwestern* diploma in 1874—and many more years until women were fully accepted by the University community.

—*Northwestern Magazine*
(Fall, 2019)

From a very young age, we are all pressured to follow this predetermined path that will ultimately lead us to success: get good grades, graduate high school, go to college, earn your degree and you will be successful and set for life. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many people. Young adults are pressured by universities to simply apply for student loans to pay for their college experience. More and more often, you are seeing individuals rack up thousands of dollars in student debt to earn a degree, only to obtain low-paying jobs once they are out of college.

—Brandon Blagg

The College Admissions Waitlist—where students' dreams go to die.

—Janet Lorin

I don't think kids should be perfect. I think college is really a time, in a safe way, to make mistakes and explore who you are.

—Jenna Bush Hager

We are really destroying a tremendous amount of talent—people who could be talented in sports writing or being an emergency medical technician, but can't even get a community college degree. I regard this math requirement [Algebra II] as highly irrational.

—Andrew Hacker

Data from the *Computing Research Association* show that from 2013 to 2017, the number of people majoring in computer science more than doubled.

—Derek Thompson

My friend got a degree in egyptology, but can't get a job, so he's paying more money to get a Phd so he can work teaching other people egyptology. In his case college is literally a pyramid scheme.

—Katie Hannigan

Go into the arts. I'm not kidding. The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable. Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven's sake. Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possibly can. You will get an enormous reward. You will have created something.

—Kurt Vonnegut

Since the 1970s, and especially since the 2008 recession, economic pressures have pushed Americans toward greater reliance on family. Starting around 2012, the share of children living with married parents began to inch up. And college students have more contact with their parents than they did a generation ago. We tend to deride this as helicopter parenting or a failure to launch, and it has its excesses. But the education process is longer and more expensive these days, so it makes sense that young adults rely on their parents for longer than they used to.

—David Brooks

The *Morrill Land Grant College Act* would distribute federal land to states and localities for the purpose of building public institutions of higher learning dedicated to teaching agriculture and other practical arts—a miracle of democratization in the history of American education.

—Andrew Ferguson

If a child can do advanced math, speak 3 languages, or receive top grades, but can't manage their emotions, practice conflict resolution or handle stress, none of that other stuff is really going to matter.

—*Appelbaum Training Institute*

From 2007 to 2017, the average annual cost of a degree at a four-year public university… rose from about $15,000 to more than $19,000—a jump of 28 percent after taking inflation into account. Only health care rivals higher education as an economic sector so consumed by irrational inefficiencies and runaway prices.

—Andrew Ferguson

Roughly 70 percent of college students take out loans to finance their education. The average undergraduate leaves school more than $25,000 in debt.

—Andrew Ferguson

[On the founding of the *University of Chicago*] Following the principle of trying to abolish evils by destroying them at the source, we felt that to aid colleges and universities, whose graduates would spread their culture far and wide, was the surest way to fight ignorance and promote the growth of useful knowledge.

—John D. Rockefeller

As the president of a small, rural, private liberal-arts college for eight years, I witnessed a three-fold increase in the number of students accessing mental-health services during that time. Many students could not effectively cope with independence and individual responsibility when left to themselves.
While exploring the cause of the rise of student mental-health disorders, I learned that too many parents remained electronically and psychologically tethered to their children.

—Richard H. Dorman (2020)

COLLEGE:
What it means in the US: An academic institution where you'd typically get your bachelors degree, often known as a university.
What it means in the UK: An academic institution where students sit the final two years of high school and receive various qualifications.
Potential cause of international drama: Saying 'it happened when I was in college' and having someone wonder whether you meant age 16 or 23.

—Natasha Jokic

There's great disparity between who goes to college and who goes to jail. Who lives long and who dies prematurely is the defining issue of our time. And I submit to you, there's a significant race dimension, it is basically class-driven.

—Jesse Jackson

Many kids come out of college, they have a credit card and a diploma. They don't know how to buy a house or a car or health insurance or life insurance. They do not know basic microeconomics.

—Jesse Jackson

Yale and *Princeton* didn't accept female students until 1969. *Harvard* didn't admit women until 1977 (when it merged with the all-female *Radcliffe* college). *Brown* (which merged with women's college *Pembroke*), *Dartmouth* and *Columbia* did not offer admission to women until 1971, 1972 and 1981 respectively. Other case-specific instances allowed some women to take certain classes at Ivy league institutions (such as *Barnard* women taking classes at *Columbia*), but, by and large, women in the '60s who harbored Ivy League dreams had to put home on hold.

—Michelle Adam

Know what you're working toward and eliminate debt, so that if you change your mind later it doesn't kill you to know you have a hundred thousand dollar biology degree hanging in the kitchen of the tapas restaurant you just opened.

—Brian Huskie

I'm worried I will leave grad school and no longer be able to speak English. I know this woman in grad school, a friend of a friend, and just listening to her talk is scary. The semiotic dialetics of intertextual modernity. Which makes no sense at all. Sometimes I feel that they live in a parallel universe of academia speaking acadamese instead of English and they don't really know what's happening in the real world.

—Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Community colleges have long prided themselves on access, ideal institutions for someone who might not have the time, money or knowledge to navigate the ins and outs of higher ed. Rural schools have been hit especially hard this fall [2020], as they frequently serve a population of students who commute, sometimes long distances, and often don't have internet at home. According to the *University of Alabama's Education Policy Center*, 584 of the nation's 970 community colleges are rural.

—Lindsay Schnell

The Gold Coast of Connecticut pumps more athletic recruits into Ivy League schools than any other region in the nation. Kids' sports look a little different here—as they do in upscale neighborhoods across America. Backyards feature batting cages, pitching tunnels, fencing pistes, Olympic-size hockey rinks complete with floodlights and generators….Whereas the Hoop Dreamers of the Chicago projects pursued sports as a path out of poverty and hardship, the kids of Fairfield County aren't gunning for the scholarship money. It's more about status maintenance, by any means necessary.

—Ruth S. Barrett

The special boost for recruited athletes, known as preferential admission, can be equivalent to hundreds of SAT points. According to *The Washington Post*, *Harvard*, which typically admits approximately 5 percent of its applicants, reports acceptance rates as high as 88 percent for athletes endorsed by its coaches.

—Ruth S. Barrett

Upper-crust sports such as rowing and fencing have a storied tradition at the Ivies, dating back to the 1852 *Harvard*-versus-*Yale* regatta held at Lake Winnipesaukee, New Hampshire, considered to be the first intercollegiate sporting event in the United States.

—Ruth S. Barrett

The optics of country-club staples such as squash and golf help explain why these sports got slashed. At a time when racial justice and diversity have become a more open national conversation, the sports being eliminated are the ones that tend to draw overwhelmingly white, often wealthy players.

—Melissa Korn (2020)

Elite Overproduction—the tendency of a society's ruling classes to grow faster than the number of positions for their members to fill. One way for a ruling class to grow is biologically—think of Saudi Arabia, where princes and princesses are born faster than royal roles can be created for them. In the United States, elites overproduce themselves through economic and educational upward mobility: More and more people get rich, and more and more get educated. Neither of these sounds bad on its own. Don't we want everyone to be rich and educated? The problems begin when money and Harvard degrees become like royal titles in Saudi Arabia. If lots of people have them, but only some have real power, the ones who don't have power eventually turn on the ones who do.

—Graeme Wood
paraphrasing
Peter Turchin

Higher education is a way of mass-producing elites without also mass-producing elite jobs for them to occupy.

—Peter Turchin

If every [college] varsity program has an incoming class of 10 water-polo athletes, that leaves about 9,000 high-schoolers with no place to go.

—Ruth S. Barrett

College degrees show you are capable of completing something, that you have technical knowledge and not just on-the-job training. You wanna be a boss? Then you need letters after your name.

—Jasmine Justice
(Community
College Student)

Conventional wisdom holds that a four-year degree is the key to a promising future. But amid a growing student debt crisis, declining generational wealth and a pandemic that has pummeled higher education, traditional college just isn't working for millions of Americans. It's pushing people to seek out faster, cheaper and more specialized alternatives to postsecondary education, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, intensifying the allure of short-term credential classes, boot camps, apprenticeship programs and vocational certifications that could eventually 'supplant the symbolic value of a four-year degree.'

—Kelli Nguyen (2020)

Higher Ed has been losing 1 million new (US) admissions per year for the last 3 years. 50 Colleges are closing a year, and until Higher Ed starts talking to the companies/industries as to what their needs are and matching majors, they will continue to decline. Post High School edu should be 1/3rd Apprenticeships, ⅓ Community Colleges and 1/3rd Higher Ed.

—Wayne Sharp (2020)

The exquisite art of idleness, one of the most important things that any University can teach.

—Oscar Wilde

Bryn Mawr had done what a four-year dose of liberal education was designed to do: unfit her for eighty percent of the useful work of the world.

—Toni Morrison

They teach anything in universities today. You can major in mud pies.

—Orson Welles

My PhD advisor told me to put a ten dollar bill between the pages of my thesis in the university library. So I can check to see if anyone read it? I asked. No, of course no one will read it, he replied. But when you come back into town you'll always have money for lunch.

—Carl T. Bergstrom

What is the purpose of a college degree? How do we measure its effectiveness? Some of the measures are skill and career based, but here are also other critical outcomes like becoming critical thinkers, good communicators, collaborators, and with global views. These traits also make good community contributors and citizens.
But clearly the price point for the outcomes need to be examined. And the way students learn is changing. Students and their prospective employers want to see experiential learning with portfolios of things built and problems solved with strong technology aptitude.
Higher education is a 500 year old model. A re-boot was needed long ago…It is a conversation that needs to take place all the way from government public policy down to the family kitchen table.

—Steven Borg (2020)

Academia is a pyramid scheme: Each biomedical professor trains an average of six doctoral students across her career, but only 16 percent of the students get tenure-track positions. Competition is ferocious, and success hinges on getting published—a feat made easier by dramatic results. These factors pull researchers toward speed, short-termism, and hype at the expense of rigor.

—Ed Yong

Schools teach you to imitate. If you don't imitate what the teacher wants you get a bad grade. Here, in college, it was more sophisticated, of course; you were supposed to imitate the teacher in such a way as to convince the teacher you were not imitating, but taking the essence of the instruction and going ahead with it on your own. That got you A's. Originality on the other hand could get you anything—from A to F. The whole grading system cautioned against it.

—Robert M. Pirsig

Education at the University mostly worked by the age-old method of putting a lot of young people in the vicinity of a lot of books and hoping that something would pass from one to the other, while the actual young people put themselves in the vicinity of inns and taverns for exactly the same reason.

—Terry Pratchett

The only purpose of a university education is to teach people to enjoy life more than they would have done otherwise.

—Auberon Waugh

As a parent, it's my priority to help you get into Heaven, not *Harvard*.

—Internet Meme

I've seen academic life destroy the best writers of my generation.

—Susan Sontag

'I taught a good lesson…' probably suggests the learning is viewed as a process of absorbing information, which in turn means that teaching consists of delivering that information. (Many years ago, the writer George Leonard described lecturing as the 'best way to get information from teacher's notebook to student's notebook without touching the student's mind.') This approach is particularly common among high school and college teachers, who have been encouraged to think of themselves as experts in their content areas (literature, science history) rather than in pedagogy. The reductio ad absurdum would be those who 'took their content so very seriously that they forgot their students,' as Linda McNeil put it in her devastating portrait of high school, *Contradictions of Control: School Structure and School Knowledge*.

—Alfie Kohn

We are shut up in schools and college recitation rooms for ten or fifteen years & come out at last with a bellyful of words & do not know a thing…The farm, the farm is the right school…The farm is a piece of the world, the School house is not.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Now I understand that one of the important reasons for going to college and getting an education is to learn that the things you've believed in all your life aren't true, and that nothing is what it appears to be.

—Daniel Keyes

All life lessons are not learned at college….Life teaches them everywhere.

—L. M. Montgomery

Got a 2.4 GPA my first semester in college. Thought maybe I wasn't cut out for engineering. Today I've landed two spacecraft on Mars, and designing one for the moon. STEM is hard for everyone. Grades ultimately aren't what matters. Curiosity and persistence matter.

—Ben Cichy

All students enter law school with a certain amount of idealism and desire to serve the public, but after three years of brutal competition we care for nothing but the right job with the right firm where we can make partner in seven years and earn big bucks.

—John Grisham

Gradually I began to find that there were disadvantages in going to college. The one I felt and still feel most is lack of time. I used to have time to think, to reflect, my mind and I. We would sit together of an evening and listen to the inner melodies of the spirit, which one hears only in leisure moments when the words of some loved poet touch a deep, sweet chord in the soul that until then had been silent. But in college there is no time to commune with one's thoughts. One goes to college to learn, it seems, not to think. When one enters the portals of learning, one leaves the dearest pleasures—solitude, books and imagination—outside with the whispering pines. I suppose I ought to find some comfort in the thought that I am laying up treasures for future enjoyment, but I am improvident enough to prefer present joy to hoarding riches against a rainy day.

—Helen Keller

Christmas prep is like college finals week: Late nights, massive carb consumption, & the panic of knowing I should have started sooner.

—Internet Meme

The value of a college education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think.

—Albert Einstein

I want to be able to listen to recording of piano sonatas and know who's playing. I want to go to classical concerts and know when you're meant to clap. I want to be able to 'get' modern jazz without it all sounding like this terrible mistake, and I want to know who the Velvet Underground are exactly. I want to be fully engaged in the World of Ideas, I want to understand complex economics, and what people see in Bob Dylan. I want to possess radical but humane and well-informed political ideals, and I want to hold passionate but reasoned debates round wooden kitchen tables, saying things like 'define your terms!' and 'your premise is patently specious!' and then suddenly to discover that the sun's come up and we've been talking all night. I want to use words like 'eponymous' and 'solipsistic' and 'utilitarian' with confidence. I want to learn to appreciate fine wines, and exotic liquors, and fine single malts, and learn how to drink them without turning into a complete div, and to eat strange and exotic foods, plovers' eggs and lobster thermidor, things that sound barely edible, or that I can't pronounce...Most of all I want to read books; books thick as brick, leather-bound books with incredibly thin paper and those purple ribbons to mark where you left off; cheap, dusty, second-hand books of collected verse, incredibly expensive, imported books of incomprehensible essays from foreign universities.

At some point I'd like to have an original idea...And all of these are the things that a university education's going to give me.

—David Nicholls

Women are attending college at the highest rates in history, and…we're the majority of undergraduate and master's students.

—Jessica Valenti (2009)

University can teach you skill and give you opportunity, but it can't teach you sense, nor give you understanding. Sense and understanding are produced within one's soul.

—C. JoyBell C.

We are students of words: we are shut up in schools, and colleges, and recitation-rooms, for ten or fifteen years, and come out at last with a bag of wind, a memory of words, and do not know a thing.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Elite students climb confidently until they reach a level of competition sufficiently intense to beat their dreams out of them. Higher education is the place where people who had big plans in high school get stuck in fierce rivalries with equally smart peers over conventional careers like management consulting and investment banking. For the privilege of being turned into conformists, students (or their families) pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in skyrocketing tuition that continues to outpace inflation. Why are we doing this to ourselves?

—Peter Thiel

You wasted $150,000 on an education you coulda got for $1.50 in late fees at the public library.

—Matt Damon

I have known many graduates of *Bryn Mawr*. They are all of the same mold. They have all accepted the same bright challenge: something is lost that has not been found, something's at stake that has not been won, something is started that has not been finished, something is dimly felt that has not been fully realized. They carry the distinguishing mark—the mark that separates them from other educated and superior women: the incredible vigor, the subtlety of mind, the warmth of spirit, the aspiration, the fidelity to past and to present. As they grow in years, they grow in light. As their minds and hearts expand, their deeds become more formidable, their connections more significant, their husbands more startled and delighted. I once held a live hummingbird in my hand. I once married a Bryn Mawr girl. To a large extent they are twin experiences. Sometimes I feel as though I were a diver who had ventured a little beyond the limits of safe travel under the sea and had entered the strange zone where one is said to enjoy the rapture of the deep.

—E. B. White

Academics are forced to write in language no one can understand so that they get tenure. They have to say 'discourse', not 'talk'. Knowledge that is not accessible is not helpful.

—Gloria Steinem

Studies show college students prefer physical books over electronic versions if the cost is the same. Even when electronic textbooks are available for free, twenty-five percent of college students still chose to purchase a physical version. A survey of over 1,500 U.K. parents of children aged 0-8 found that 76% of the children prefer physical books to electronic versions….Researchers found that only 15% of parents and children preferred reading e-books to traditional books.

—*Dr. Screen-Free Mom*

Grad students existed not to learn things but to relieve the tenured faculty members of tiresome burdens such as educating people and doing research.

—Neal Stephenson

Colleges typically did not tell you that ninety percent of your education came after you hung the parchment on the wall. People might ask for a rebate.

—Tom Clancy

A real education takes place, not in the lecture hall or library, but in the rooms of friends, with earnest frolic and happy disputation.

—Stephen Fry

I used my history degree about twice a year whether I needed to or not.

—Patricia Briggs

I certainly wasn't seeking any degree, the way a college confers a status symbol upon its students. My homemade education gave me, with every additional book that I read, a little bit more sensitivity to the deafness, dumbness and blindness that was afflicting the black race in America. Not long ago, an English writer telephoned me, asking questions. One was, What's your alma mater? I told him, Books.

—Alex Haley

Decide that you like college life. In your dorm you meet many nice people. Some are smarter than you. And some, you notice, are dumber than you. You will continue, unfortunately, to view the world in exactly these terms for the rest of your life.

—Lorrie Moore

You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.

—Tom Brokaw

Some people get an education without going to college. The rest get it after they get out.

—Mark Twain

Universities should be doing things with communities more than for them, and certainly never to them….When we work with others, the result is not only impactful service but also stronger research and teaching.

—David Figlio

Decisions. Where, what, why. Can't handle them. So I'm prolonging the indecision with higher education.

—Kamila Shamsie

Business schools don't create successful people. They simply accept them, then take credit for their success.

—Josh Kaufman

A 4 year degree attained after 7 years is still a degree. A graduation at the age of 50 is still a graduation. A Mercedes bought at the age of 65 is still a Mercedes. Don't let people bully you with their timelines of success.

—*theChive*

Strange as it seems, no amount of learning can cure stupidity, and higher education positively fortifies it.

—Stephen Vizinczey

Less than 2 percent of the nations' students attend so-called independent schools. But 24 percent of *Yale's* class of 2024 attended an independent school. At *Princeton*, that figure is 25 percent. At *Brown* and *Dartmouth*, it is higher still: 29 percent. The numbers are even more astonishing when you consider that they're not distributed evenly across the country's more than 1,600 independent schools but are concentrated in the most exclusive ones….In the past five years, *Dalton* has sent about a third of its graduates to the Ivy League. Ditto the *Spence School*. *Harvard-Westlake*, in Los Angeles, sent 45 kids to *Harvard* alone. *Noble* and *Greenough School*, in Massachusetts, did even better: 50 kids went on to *Harvard*.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Half of lawyers say their income doesn't justify the tuition they spent on their degrees. Getting into a top medical school has become shockingly difficult; in 2018, *U.S. News & World Report* found that the average admission rate among 118 ranked medical schools was 6.8 percent. For the very best ones? The rate is 2.4 percent.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Daniel Markovits, a professor at *Yale Law School*, coined the term meritocracy trap —a system that rewards an ever-growing share of society's riches to an ever-shrinking pool of winners. 'Today's meritocrats still claim to get ahead through talent and effort, using means open to anyone. In practice, however, meritocracy now excludes everyone outside of a narrow elite.' This is a system that screws the poor, hollows out the middle class, and turns rich kids into exhausted, anxious, and maximally stressed-out adolescents who believe their future depends on getting into one of a very small group of colleges that routinely reject upwards of 90 percent of their applicants.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Pediatricians…tell me…that some parents try to help their kids keep it together by asking doctors for study drugs or even sleeping pills. The feeling that the child isn't doing as well as she could—combined with the knowledge that with the requisite documentation, students can take their SATs and ACTs untimed—often has Mom calling her friends, locating the right educational psychologist, and subjecting the teenager to a battery of tests. The doctor almost always finds something.

—Caitlin Flanagan

College admissions is one of the few situations in which rich people are forced to scramble for a scarce resource.

—Caitlin Flanagan

The humanities should constitute the core of any university worth the name.

—Terry Eagleton

What is the matter with universities is that the students are school children, whereas it is of the very essence of university education that they should be adults.

—George Bernard Shaw

I feel very strongly indeed that a *Cambridge* education for our scientists should include some contact with the humanistic side. The gift of expression is important to them as scientists; the best research is wasted when it is extremely difficult to discover what it is all about ... It is even more important when scientists are called upon to play their part in the world of affairs.

—Sir William Bragg

The assault on education began more than a century ago by industrialists and capitalists such as Andrew Carnegie. In 1891, Carnegie congratulated the graduates of the *Pierce College of Business* for being fully occupied in obtaining a knowledge of shorthand and typewriting rather than wasting time upon dead languages. The industrialist Richard Teller Crane was even more pointed in his 1911 dismissal of what humanists call the life of the mind. No one who has a taste for literature has a right to be happy because the only men entitled to happiness… is those who are useful. The arrival of industrialists on university boards of trustees began as early as the 1870s and the *University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business* offered the first academic credential in business administration in 1881. The capitalists, from the start, complained that universities were unprofitable. These early twentieth century capitalists, like heads of investment houses and hedge-fund managers, were…motivated by an ethically based anti-intellectualism that transcended interest in the financial bottom line. Their distrust of the ideal of intellectual inquiry for its own sake, led them to insist that if universities were to be preserved at all, they must operate on a different set of principles from those governing the liberal arts.

—Chris Hedges

If then a practical end must be assigned to a University course, I say it is that of training good members of society... It is the education which gives a man a clear, conscious view of their own opinions and judgements, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them, and a force in urging them. It teaches him to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought to detect what is sophistical and to discard what is irrelevant.

—John Henry Newman

No matter how much I admire our schools, I know that no university exists that can provide an education; what a university can provide is an outline, to give the learner a direction and guidance. The rest one has to do for oneself.

—Louis L'Amour

Life is still better than University. In school, your teacher is the fruit picker and you are the open fruit basket. Then you take those fruits and make cakes and pies. But life is going to give you the chance to go out there and pick those fruits yourself. Then you can eat them, or make them into something else; any which way, your own hands picked them!

—C. JoyBell C.

I didn't want any degrees if all the ill-read literates and radio announcers and pedagogical dummies I knew had them by the peck.

—J. D. Salinger

One of the great failings of the American education system (in our view) is that young people can graduate from university without any understanding of poverty at home or abroad.

—Nicholas D. Kristof

Like many highly educated people, I didn't have much in the way of actual skills.

—J. Maarten Troost

It is nice to be popular, or at least to teach popular courses. But the downside of large classes is that the only students I get to know are those who come to visit during my office hours.

—Professor David Gress

People are all born ignorant but they are not born stupid. Much of the stupidity we see today is induced by our educational system, from the elementary schools to the universities. In a high-tech age that has seen the creation of artificial intelligence by computers, we are also seeing the creation of artificial stupidity by people who call themselves educators.

—Thomas Sowell

I'd compare college tuition to paying for a personal trainer at an athletic club. We professors play the roles of trainers, giving people access to the equipment (books, labs, our expertise) and after that, it is our job to be demanding.

—Randy Pausch

And there's this place called college! I mean, they want you to care, dig it, care about this education trip, and they don't care enough themselves to make it as attractive as the crap game across the street!

—Spider Robinson

Paying professors for passing grades is widespread, so much so that Moldovans won't go to doctors under thirty-five years old. They suspect—with good reason—that they bought their degrees. Thus, the radius of mistrust is widened.

—Eric Weiner

What defines a successful time in college…is commonly judged in terms of your summer internships and ultimately the job you undertake post-college.

—Jason L. Ma

On losing a player due to academics—'Our team traveled 25,000 miles, then he fails geography.'

—John Heisler

Geography is not an easy subject to teach. It demands specialized training; and this, or course, is part of the problem. We know that…a survey of teachers teaching geography showed only 10 percent of them had majored in geography, 30 percent had minored in it, about the same number had just one or two geography courses, and as many as 30 percent had never had a single college geography class! So it makes it very difficult for many of them to adequately teach it. You can't teach what you don't know.

—Gilbert M. Grosvenor

18: Can I buy a bottle of wine?
USA: No, that's illegal & irresponsible.
18: Can I go $50,000 into debt for education?
USA: We encourage it.

—Internet Meme

Percentage of the population who had attained any postsecondary degree in *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development* countries in 2018: Republic of Korea-70%, Canada-62%, Japan-61%, Ireland-56%, Lithuania-56%, Luxembourg-55%, Australia-51%, Switzerland-51%, United Kingdom-51%, United States-49%.

—*National Center for Education Statistics*

The evidence is clear: America's boys are being left behind by current practices in the classroom….Boys are dropping out of high schools in significant numbers, failing to complete college degrees, and behaving more violently.
We should pay close attention to statistics that track these trends, seriously regard the research, and immediately incorporate changes into our elementary and secondary schools to bring boys back onto an environment that motivates them to learn to their fullest.
The number of boys enrolling in colleges and universities nationwide is declining….Even in the hard sciences and engineering, where males traditionally have dominated, the margin is narrowing. And data compiled by the *U.S. Department of Education* indicate females are more apt than males to complete college-preparatory courses and to finish their college degrees….Boys account for 70% of the D's and F's in schools. Boys also account for two-thirds of disability diagnoses and represent 90% of discipline referrals.

—Janet Mulvey

50% of academic papers are never read by anyone other than their authors, reviewers and editors.

—*factourism.com*

In survey after survey, employers say that the most valuable and hardest to find skills are unrelated to the technical skills of particular jobs. What employers are seeking most, and not finding nearly as often as they'd like, are workers who have what are known as 'noncognitive' or 'soft' skills such as communication, critical thinking, team orientation, diligence, and integrity—in other words the kind of 'human' skills that make people successful at working with other people.

—Brent Orrell

Fields with sizable numbers of degrees did not have increases during the 2011–12 to 2016–17 period. For example, the number of degrees in philosophy and religious studies decreased 23 percent between 2011–12 and 2016–17. Also, the number of degrees in English language and literature/letters decreased 23 percent; the number of degrees in education decreased 19 percent; and the number of degrees in liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities decreased 7 percent. The number of degrees in visual and performing arts was 5 percent lower in 2016–17 than in 2011–12.

—*U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics* (2019)

In highly specialized technical fields, soft-skills are critical to the career path. A survey the American Enterprise Institute conducted last year found that nearly half of workers in science, technology, engineering and math fields thought that good writing and communication skills were extremely important and around 70% said the same regarding critical thinking skills. At the same time, less than 40% of these workers said that high level math, analytical or computer skills were extremely important.

—Brent Orrell

There are two tracks in American higher education. One has money and confers prestige, while the other—the one that Black students tend to tread—does not….Nearly half of the students who graduate from high school in Mississippi are Black, but in 2019, Black students made up just 10 percent of the *University of Mississippi*'s freshman class. The share of Black students there has shrunk steadily since 2012. In Alabama, a third of graduating high-school students are Black, but in 2019 just 5 percent of the student body at Auburn University, one of the state's premier public institutions, was Black. While total enrollment has grown by thousands, Auburn now has fewer Black undergraduates than it did in 2002.

—Adam Harris

Affluent parents have increased their share of educational spending by nearly 300 percent since 1996. Partly as a result, the test-score gap between high- and low-income students has grown by 40 to 50 percent. The children of well-off, well-educated meritocrats are thus perfectly situated to predominate at the elite colleges that produced their parents' social standing in the first place. Roughly 72 percent of students at these colleges are from the richest quarter of families, whereas only 3 percent come from the poorest quarter. A 2017 study found that 38 schools—including *Princeton*, *Yale*, *Penn*, *Dartmouth*, *Colgate*, and *Middlebury*—draw more students from the top 1 percent than from the bottom 60 percent.

—Elizabeth Currid-Halkett

Certain majors…bring a faster return on investment than others….There are bachelor degree programs that allow most graduates to recoup the money spent on their diploma in five years or less….Seven engineering majors dominate the list, including petroleum, aerospace and industrial engineering. The remaining majors are also in science, math and heath care; nursing, dental support services, construction management and quality control/safety technicians.
Other fields, such as drama and dance, showed no return on investment most of the time….That doesn't mean those careers don't offer creative fulfillment or societal value, but it could indicate unstable employment or limited economic return.

—Michael Itzkowitz

The primary duty of the University to a student is to provide him with such instructors as will make him realize that the responsibility for progress is his own and no one else's.

—S. E. Whitnall

If universities and liberal arts colleges would demand as many courses in science as *MIT* and *Caltech* require in the humanities, we could lead our students up a gentle slope to a considerable level of learning.

—F. H. Westheimer

Universities hire professors the way some men choose wives—they want the ones the others will admire.

—Morris Kline

So far as the mere imparting of information is concerned, no university has had any justification for existence since the popularization of printing in the fifteenth century.

—Alfred North Whitehead

A professor is one who can speak on any subject—for precisely fifty minutes.

—Norbert Wiener

Men are abandoning higher education in such numbers that they now trail female college students by record levels. At the close of the 2020-21 academic year, women made up 59.5% of college students, an all-time high, and men 40.5%, according to enrollment data from the *National Student Clearinghouse*….The divergence increases at graduation: after six years of college, 65% of women in the U.S. who started a four-year university in 2012 received diplomas by 2018 compared with 59% of men during the same period, according to the *U.S. Department of Education*.

—Douglas Belkin

School and college offer us the socially sanctioned opportunity, indeed the obligation, to disturb and challenge students intellectually, using knowledge as a means, not an end, to engender more effective and self-reflective thought and action. That is at odds with the habit of using uniform tests of the content of the syllabus.

—Grant P. Wiggins

There's the sense that young men will come back to the system when they enter into their career and realize that they do need a college degree for advancement, and a lot of the data shows that just doesn't happen. Once students start this path and don't pursue college, it's really hard to get back into the system. Really hard, because life happens.

—Jens Larson

At the end of the 2020-21 academic year, nearly 60 percent of all college students were women, according to data from the *National Student Clearinghouse*. Women have outpaced men in college enrollment for decades, but last year's gap represents an all-time high. If the trend continues, twice as many women as men will earn college degrees within the next few years.

—Mike Bebernes

Many experts worry about the wider effects of a worsening education deficit among men. Men with bachelor's degrees earn about $900,000 on average more than high school graduates over the course of their careers. Less-educated men are also more likely to be unemployed and are more vulnerable to economic shocks like the recession caused by the coronavirus pandemic. At a society-wide scale, these shortfalls could dampen growth of the U.S. economy and make inequality more severe.

—Mike Bebernes

The ability to see beyond one's own perspective, to put oneself in the shoes of the learner and to understand the meaning of that experience in terms of learning, is perhaps the most important role of universities in the preparation of teachers. One of the great flaws of the 'bright person myth' of teaching is that it presumes that anyone can teach what he or she knows to anyone else. However, people who have never studied teaching or learning often have a very difficult time understanding how to convey material that they themselves learned effortlessly and almost subconsciously.

Linda Darling-Hammond

The restructuring and the invention are happening out in the schools at an incredible pace, but higher education is in the reactive mode and slow to move.

—Ann Lieberman

Should You Go To Grad School?
I am a compulsive neurotic.
I like my imagination crushed into dust.
I enjoy being a professor's slave.
My idea of a good time is using jargon and citing authorities.
I feel a deep need to continue the process of avoiding life.

—Matt Groening

One day our professor was discussing a particularly complicated concept. A pre-med student rudely interrupted to ask, 'Why do we have to learn this pointless information?'
'To save lives,' the professor responded quickly and continued the lecture.
A few minutes later, the same student spoke up again. 'So how does physics save lives?' he persisted.
It keeps the ignoramuses like you out of medical school,' replied the professor.

—https://www.best-funny-jokes.com

A decision to go on to college is influenced far more by the father's occupation than it is by the [child's] I.Q.

—Elbridge Sibley

This one job said they wanted a college degree or equivalent. I said, 'Perfect, I have eight years of high school.'

—Buzz Nutley

I am so ready to be done with high school and get to college so I can maybe be financially stable and decorate my cute house.
'Oh boy, should we tell her?'

—Parker Emerich (2022)

A whopping 43% of white students weren't admitted [to Harvard] on merit. One might call it affirmative action for the rich and privileged….43% of *Harvard's* white students are either recruited athletes, legacy students, on the dean's interest list (meaning their parents have donated to the school) or children of faculty and staff (students admitted based on these criteria are referred to as a 'ALDCs', which stands for 'athletes,' 'legacies,' 'dean's interest list' and 'children' of *Harvard* employees. Roughly three-quarters of these applicants would have been rejected if it weren't for having rich or *Harvard*-connected parents or being an athlete…. This kind of systematic favoritism of the white, wealthy and connected is not new when it comes to elite academic institutions. It's always been a bit of a rigged game, one that overwhelmingly favors rich white people.

—Tayo Bero

[College] football has to make money. It has to support the spring sports. I can show you how to have a heck of a wrestling team. Let me recruit the guys who will get us on top in football and we'll have good everything.

—Chuck Fairbanks,
Oklahoma Football
Coach.

Football is the only activity on any campus that brings all the alumni back to the university.

—Carmen Cozza

I asked the young man if he was in the top half of his class academically. He said, 'No sir, I am one of those who make the top half possible.'

—Pete Elliot

I never graduated from *Iowa*. I was only there for two terms—Truman's and Eisenhower's.

—Alex Karras

To see some of our best-educated boys spending an afternoon knocking each other down, while thousands cheer them on, hardly gives a picture of a peace-loving nation.

—Lyndon Johnson

Unless he grows up to be President or defendant in an importance murder trial, the college football player is likely to receive far more extensive and searching newspaper publicity in his undergraduate days than it any other period of his life.

—Heywood Hale Brown

There is such a rebound from parental influence that it generally seems that the child makes use of the directions given by the parent only to avoid the prescribed path.

—Margaret Fuller (1841)

Upper class means a certainty of belonging, and assumption of one's importance in the world….Take away black studies, women's studies, ethnic studies, Jewish studies, labor history, Chicano studies, Native American studies: what is left is what has passed for 'history' with no qualifying adjective, the story of those whose belonging was never disputed.

—Susanna J. Sturgis

Wool, cotton, and the odd bits of silk and cashmere are the only acceptable materials for Prep clothes. They look better. They require professional maintenance. They are more expensive.

—Lisa Birnbach

Most higher education is devoted to affirming the traditions and origins of an existing elite and transmitting them to new members.

—Mary Catherine Bateson

'Pre-digested food' should be inscribed over every hall of learning as a warning to all who do not wish to lose their own personalities and their original sense of judgment.

—Emma Goldman

It is the function of a liberal university not to give right answers, but to ask right questions.

—Cynthia Ozick

Ignorance, arrogance, and racism have bloomed as Superior Knowledge in all too many universities.

—Alice Walker

At last I came to college. I rushed for it with the outstretched arms of youth's aching hunger to give and take of life's deepest, and highest, and I came against the solid wall of the well-fed, well-dressed world—the frigid whitewashed wall of cleanliness….How I pinched, and scraped, and starved myself, to save enough to come to college! Every cent of the tuition fee I paid was drops of sweat and blood from underpaid laundry work. And what did I get for it? A crushed spirit, a broken heart, a stinging sense of poverty that I never felt before.

—Anzia Yezierska

Equalizing opportunity through universal higher education subjects the whole population to the intellectual mode natural only to a few. It violates the fundamental egalitarian and principal of respect for the differences between people.

—Caroline Bird

Part of America's greatness in the 20th century came from having developed the most capable, vibrant, and productive network of knowledge-producing institutions in all of human history, linking together the world's best universities, private companies that turn scientific advances into life-changing consumer products, and government agencies that supported scientific research and lead to collaboration that put people on the moon.

—Jonathan Haidt

The decision to speak out is the vocation and lifelong peril by which the intellectual must live.

—Kay Boyle

In many college English courses the words 'myth' and 'symbol' are given a tremendous charge of significance. You just ain't no good unless you can see a symbol hiding, like a scared gerbil, under every page. And in many creative writing courses the little beasts multiply, the place swarms with them. What does this Mean? What does that Symbolize? What is the Underlying Mythos? Kids come lurching out of such courses with a brain full of gerbils.

—Ursula K. Le Guin

There is no substitute for the riches gained on a lifetime basis by the young American who studies or works abroad.

—Leticia Baldridge

I decided in high school that I wanted to act and to major in theater in college. But I didn't know anyone who did that for a living. My mom thought it was frivolous. She and my dad grew up during the Depression and saw college—they'd both attended—as privilege, not to be wasted. As soon as my mother started seeing me in shows, though, she said she started thinking, Oh, maybe she's onto something here.

—Jean Smart

I know it can be really overwhelming figuring out who to be, and when. Who you are now and how to act in order to get where you want to go. I have some good news: it's totally up to you. I also have some terrifying news: it's totally up to you.

—Taylor Swift

The value of education has to be redefined. What's the cost? What's the curriculum? What's the value? What's the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow if you do it?

— Dan Rosensweig

U.S. college textbook prices have risen over 1,000% since 1977. That's faster than tuition, health care costs, the housing market, and inflation.

— Eben Blake

The first American woman to go to medical school was admitted as a joke. When Elizabeth Blackwell applied to *Geneva Medical School* in 1847, the students thought it was a prank—so all 150 of them voted her in. She graduated in 2 years, co-established and taught at a London women's school, opened an infirmary for the poor, and started her own practice.

—Laura Clark

The best undergraduate institution, measured by number of *Nobel Prize* winners graduated, is the *École Normale Supérieure* in Paris. The school has produced 13.5 Nobel laureates for every 10,000 students, which is double that of its closest competitor, the *California Institute of Technology*.

—Akshat Rathi

What if instead of relying on children to be resilient, we create a world that is less traumatic?

—Internet Meme

In the year that Title IX passed [1972], just 2% of college athletic budgets went to women's sports, and fewer than 30,000 women participated in college athletics. Today more than 220,000 women participate—accounting for 44% of all college athletes. And while budgets for women's athletics have increased, colleges and universities still spend roughly 71 cents on women's sports for every dollar spent on men's athletics.

—Chinazo Opia Cunningham (2022)

A Degree in Musical Theater. You may not be able to solve a maths problem. But you will know how to solve a problem like Maria.

—Internet Meme

Athletic directors don't get hired to build a great women's sports program. They get hired to get the football team into the top 25. That's the sad reality.

—Sen. Chris Murphy (2022)

The vast majority of those who have benefited from Title IX have been white women. Across the country, states fail to provide equitable funding for programs in poor communities. As a result, girls of color in underserved communities have not seen the same opportunities as those in affluent communities. Our true north, in which we see equity for all, will be realized when we all speak up and speak out as agents of change for those who have been left behind. Title IX changed my life exponentially. But there's still much work to be done, and those forgotten girls must be part of the national conversation to advance change for all.

—Anucha Browne

USA TODAY found 87% of colleges and universities are not offering athletic opportunities to women proportionate to their enrollment, according to the news organization's analysis of 127 public and private schools…during the 2020-21 academic year. It found that 110 schools would need to add a total of 11,501 female roster spots to close the participation gap. That's an average of 104 per school—roughly the size of a football team and enough to add three or four women's teams each. Among the schools with the biggest gaps were the *University of Memphis*, the *University of Louisiana* at Monroe and *the University of South Alabama*. None was larger than the *University of North Carolina*, though. It would need to add 395 female roster spots.

—Rachel Axon and
Lindsay Schnell

The saddest fact of Title IX's 50th anniversary—it's been 50 years and the vast majority of colleges and universities in this country are still in blatant violation. They are not giving women the equal treatment and opportunities and athletic financial aid the law requires and they deserve.

—Arthur Bryant,
Attorney (2022)

What Title IX's history proves more than anything else is if you build it, they will come. If schools offer opportunities for women to participate in intercollegiate athletics, women will sign up for the teams.

—Arthur Bryant

Teaching at the college level is a cushy job with lots of time off. But I can tell you right now, market conditions are rarely favorable for Ph.D.s in literature and writing. Colleges and universities have found they can get part-time instructors, a.k.a. adjunct professors, for next to nothing, in the liberal arts.

—Elizabeth Sims (2022)

We do have lots of college students coming in who struggle with reading, and unfortunately, we've found out that doing developmental English courses just don't seem very effective. They prolong time to graduation, and the longer it takes to graduate, the less likely you are to graduate.

—Virginia Clinton-Lisell

Grad students make damn near poverty level money while teaching undergrad classes or working their ass off in a professor's lab AND going to school full-time for a graduate-level degree. And unless you're tenure track, don't even think about going into academia. For many places, you'll make less than or on par with K-12 teachers (also underpaid). All in the name of 'putting in your time/paying your dues.' Oh, and don't get attached to where you live because you don't really get to pick; the job market is over-saturated as the old heads sit comfy with their tenure—and you go wherever you can find a postdoc, then move again after that, hopefully for a job as a professor in tenure track (probably not though).

—Liz Richardson
on *BuzzFeed.com*

A study shows half of college students fall behind in their first year to graduate in 4 years….70% are already off track to finish in 4 years after their freshman year….The average student isn't on track to complete a degree in even 5 years.… Another datapoint to explain the high cost of college: It's taking students longer to finish.

—Michael Goodman
(2022)

Grandmother and her grandson are shopping at the Supermarket.
Grandma: 'Diploma, give me the sugar. Diploma, put down that packet of sweets.'
Cashier : 'Granny, is your grandson's name *Diploma*?'
Grandma: 'Yes.'
Cashier : 'Why 'Diploma'?
Grandma : 'Because I sent my daughter to College and this is what she brought back.'

—*https://americasbestpics.com*

If I can stress anything, check your syllabus. For the love of all that is good in this world: check your syllabus. Many professors will give you a play-by-play of the semester. Don't know the reading? Dust off that old syllabus. Not sure what you missed while you were hung over? Check the syllabus. Do I have to turn it in? Check the syllabus. Can I turn something in late? You guessed it! Check the syllabus.

—Raylyn Paquin

College is the best fresh start the world will give you. You are entering a world where there is no Prom Queen, there is no 'outcasts area,' and you can fairly easily avoid the people who made high school terrible—even in a small town. The pressure that comes with being popular can go, the isolation of being different matters less. Often, I see students come in with a lot of baggage from the social torture or expectation of high school, but college is your chance to figure out who you are away from the people you spent the last 4 to 13 years with. By not allowing that pressure to fuel you, you're going to be able to stick out and find the confidence to be you.

—Raylyn Paquin

In college I was going to study administration of justice, then go into the LAPD. But I took one acting class, and the first week I happened to be reading opposite a very attractive girl. The script said, 'A young couple is making out on a park bench.' That never happened in police science courses.

—Bryan Cranston

Universities and colleges and musical emporiums and schools for the teaching of theology and plumbing and signpainting are as thick in America as the motor traffic. Whenever you see a public building with Gothic fenestration on a sturdy backing of Indiana concrete, you may be certain that it is another university, with anywhere from two hundred to twenty thousand students equally ardent about avoiding the disadvantage of becoming learned and about gaining the social prestige contained in the possession of a B.A degree.

—Sinclair Lewis

You don't live on an Ivy League campus. You reside on one. Living is loud and messy, but residing? Residing is quiet business.

—Xochitl Gonzalez

Law Professor: 'You're currently failing your ethics class.'
Me: *slides a $20 across the desk* 'How about now?'

—*theChive*

I loved the learning that I did in college—academic and cultural. And I managed to have a lot of fun, in the spaces that the students of color claimed as our own. We had our own dormitories, our own hangouts; we even co-opted a room in the computer center where we could work the way we preferred, with Victor Manuelle or Selena playing in the background. Some white students resented that we self-segregated. What they didn't understand was that we just wanted to be around people in places were nobody told us to shush.

—Xochitl Gonzalez

College freshman tip: It's been a few days. Now is the perfect time to mess with your roommate and ask 'Have you seen our toothbrush?'

—Louise Serpico

According to research from the *New York Times* …*Washington and Lee University*, *Bucknell University*, *Kenyon College*, *Elon University*, *Boston College*, *Muhlenberg College*, *Lafayette College*, and the *University of Notre Dame*—have more students enrolled from the top 1% of wealthy families than students from the entire bottom 60% of the income scale.

—Evan Comen

It is more advantageous, socially, and economically, to have graduated from *Harvard*, *Yale* or *Princeton* with a low academic standing than to have been a *Phi Beta Kappa* at some less fashionable institution.

—E. Digby Baltzell

Whatever the university, the students who are supported in college by their parents tend to end up with higher-paying jobs than the poorer [students] who have to work their way through college….The students who must work their way through college now increasingly go into the lower paid professions such as the arts, education, and the ministry; whereas the students who are family-financed during college increasingly tend to go into the more lucrative professions such as medicine, dentistry, and the law.

—Ernest Havermann and
Patricia Salter
West

'Follow your passion?' No.
Follow your effort. No one quits anything they're good at. While passion can spark effort, the reverse is more often true. Effort, and the improvement that results, creates passion. Do something poorly? You probably dread doing it. Do something well? You enjoy it—and the better you get, the more you like doing it….There are a lot of things I am passionate about. (But) the things I ended up being really good at were the things I found myself putting effort into. A lot of people talk about passion, but that's really not what you need to focus on....When you look at where you put in your time, where you put in your effort, that tends to be the things that you are good at. And if you put in enough time, you tend to get really good at it.
If you put in enough time, and you get really good, I will give you a little secret: Nobody quits anything they are good at, because it is fun to be good. It is fun to be one of the best.

—Mark Cuban

For every three female college students, there are only about two men. The trend worsened during the pandemic. College enrollment as a whole declined in 2020—but that decline was seven times greater for male than for female students.

—Richard V. Reeves
(2022)

Patricia Salter West reported, after studying 10,000 college graduates, that 'academic ability, or whatever ability is measured by college marks, makes very little difference to success in business.'

—Vance Packard

One in four undergraduate women experience nonconsensual sexual contact by force or inability to consent, according to a survey from the Association of American Universities. Within the Greek community, the figures are worse. Greek women are twice as likely as non-Greek women to have experienced non-consensual sexual contact.

—Yvonne Ploder

It was a good book, the student told 14 others in the undergraduate seminar I was teaching, and it included a number of excellent illustrations, such as photographs of relevant Civil War manuscripts. But, he continued, those weren't very helpful to him, because of course he couldn't read cursive.

—Drew Gilpin Faust

In 2010, cursive was omitted from the new national Common Core standards for K–12 education. The students in my class, and their peers, were then somewhere in elementary school. Handwriting instruction had already been declining as laptops and tablets and lessons in 'keyboarding' assumed an ever more prominent place in the classroom. Most of my students remembered getting no more than a year or so of somewhat desultory cursive training.…Now in college, they represent the vanguard of a cursiveless world.…Defenders of script argued variously that knowledge of cursive was 'a basic right,' a key connection between hand and brain, an essential form of self-discipline, and a fundamental expression of identity.…There are dangers in cursive's loss. Students will miss the excitement and inspiration that I have seen them experience as they interact with the physical embodiment of thoughts and ideas voiced by a person long since silenced by death. Handwriting can make the past seem almost alive in the present.…All of us, not just students and scholars, will be affected by cursive's loss. The inability to read handwriting deprives society of direct access to its own past. We will become reliant on a small group of trained translators and experts to report what history—including the documents and papers of our own families—was about.

—Drew Gilpin Faust
(2022)

This is my 13th year teaching as a college art instructor. For me there have been lots of changes, but far and away the biggest is a huge decline and creativity, work ethic, and sense of exploration. There used to be a culture of 'studio rats' that would be excited about trying whatever technique they recently learned and would spend countless hours in the studios making all sorts of things. Now? If someone is in the studio, you can bet they are glued to their phone.

—Anonymous Teacher on *BuzzFeed.com* (2022)

Out-of-state students are funding flagship universities—and piling up debt in the process….For example, the hundreds of students per year who leave Illinois to attend an out-of-state public school like the *University of Alabama* are looking at a sticker price double what they would pay for an in-state university, potentially accruing an additional $60,000 in tuition costs for a four-year degree. [Aaron] Klein did a subanalysis of 16 of the 50 state flagships and found that the out-of-state students in his sample who attended school from 2002 to 2018 paid an additional $57 billion in total tuition, compared with what they might have paid in state.

—John Warner

In the face of decreased state funding, colleges and universities have had to look for other sources of revenue to balance the budget. It's obvious to anyone who has done admissions work for a month that students who are thinking about and are willing to cross state lines are generally from more affluent families and have greater capacity to pay higher, nonresident tuition rates.

—Jon Boeckenstedt

Rankings are really just a proxy for institutional wealth and the wealth of the students who enroll. Having taught at three R1 universities (*Clemson*, *University of Illinois*, and *Virginia Tech*), I can testify to what everyone working in higher ed well knows: When it comes to the quality of the educational experience, there is not a dime's worth of difference between these schools.

—John Warner

A system that requires institutions to be 'fundamentally in the business of enrolling students for tuition dollars,' which means chasing the shrinking number of students who are willing to pay full freight for the university experience, funnels money away from the missions of teaching and learning and research and toward marketing, recruiting, and financializing the student body, treating those wealthy students like ATMs.

—John Warner

In North American universities, more than half of STEM professors spend at least 80 percent of their time lecturing, just over a quarter incorporate bits of interactivity, and fewer than a fifth use truly student-centered methods that involve active learning.

—Adam M. Grant (2013)

Gap years should be the norm, not the exception. An increasingly ugly secret of campus life is that a mix of helicopter parenting and social media has rendered many 18-year-olds unfit for college. Ninety percent of kids who defer and take a gap year return to college and are more likely to graduate, with better grades.

—Scott Galloway

The wealthy are wildly overrepresented in our colleges. Wealthy kids today are over twice as likely to go to college as poor kids, and over five times as likely to attend an elite school.8 At 38 of the top 100 colleges in America, including 5 of the Ivies, there are more students from the top 1% of income than there are from the bottom 60%.

—Scott Galloway

New college grads are in for some reverse sticker shock. A recent survey by *Clever Real Estate* found that while the average starting salary for college graduates is $55,260, current college students expect to make $103,880 at their first job….The career path with the biggest gap between the two is journalism — students entering this field expect a starting salary of $107,040, when in actuality, the average starting salary is $44,800. Humanities and liberal arts students also have too-high salary expectations. The expected starting salary for these majors is $105,790, but the actual starting salary for graduates with these majors is $46,500.

—Gabrielle Olya (2022)

When I was young I decided to go to medical school. At the entrance exam, we were asked to rearrange the letters
PNEIS
and form the name of an important human body part which is most useful when erect. Those who answered SPINE are doctors today, while the rest are on Facebook.

—Internet Meme

One of the most important roles of universities…is making sure that students have a thorough understanding of culture and humanity, that they are exposed to the complexity of our world. The technical skills can be picked up over time. You can learn on the job. But the overall mission of the university as a place where students learn about the complexity of our world—it's irreplaceable.

—Robert Zubek

The valedictorian at my colleague's school decided to skip college, move to some island in the Caribbean, and sell fruit on the beach. Sometimes, the smartest people are the ones who figure out what would make them happy, and they do what they can to get to the closest version of that.

—*BuzzFeed.com*
Contributor

I don't generally penalize late work (but students then lose their chance to revise and resubmit assignments). Since instituting this approach in my humanities courses, the only noticeable difference afforded me is a dearth of very weird (and long!) excuse emails from students.

—Rebecca Schuman

College (tuition, fees, room and board at a four year school)
1970: $1,674
Today: $29,033
1,634% more

—George Manas (2022)

Giuseppe Paterno, a 93-year-old Italian man always wanted to go to college. He'd always love to read. But he came from a poor family and had to quit school in the eighth grade. He spent his career as a surveyor for the Italian railroad and got married and helped raise two children. Then, he got his high school diploma, and he wanted to go to college in philosophy and history. He applied to the *University of Palermo* and was accepted at age 93. Early on, he faltered: everyone was so much younger. He went to a dean to question this big move, and, crucially, this dean encouraged him. Before long, he felt perfectly comfortable, the other students accepted him and he them. He graduated at the top of his class at age 97 and planned to go on for a master's degree. Talk about courage.

—Priscilla Long

Early admissions is noxious. Who can afford to make a binding commitment to a college without seeing their financial aid package? Well, it's not poor students. And yet, at many of these colleges, the early admits constitute two-thirds of their class… So it's taking up more and more space, and it just creates less opportunity for people, and they don't understand the system because they only play the game once and nobody explains the rules.

—Evan Mandery

The *Great Books* program….were based on the conviction that reading the major works of world literature and thinking about them deeply would provide the keys to living a richer life.

—David Brooks

While college men are experiencing loneliness and depression at increasing rates, fraternities empower students to create a strong support system. Research shows that this connection can create a strong sense of belonging, leading members to have more positive mental health and less anxiety and depression than other students. Brothers feel comfortable having tough conversations and learning from each other, and when they seek help, members are twice as likely to reach out to a fraternity brother than anyone else.

—Luke Edwards

Students spend 90% of their time outside the classroom. Fraternities capitalize on those hours by preparing men for success in college and in their futures far beyond what their peers experience. A study of thousands of alumni of diverse backgrounds shows this holds true regardless of an individual's background or socioeconomic status entering college.
Because of higher expectations and the support and network fraternities provide, members experience greater gains in learning and graduate at higher rates than their peers. 83% of members say their confidence in their leadership skills increased because of their membership. Fraternity members also report higher levels of interaction with people different from themselves, making them more prepared than their peers to join a diverse workforce and community.

—Graham Avers

Learning to engage with difficult and challenging ideas is a core part of a university education: essential to our students' intellectual growth, and to their future ability to lead and thrive in a diverse society.

—Martha Pollack,
Cornell University
President

Career studies have shown that humanities majors, with their communication and analytical skills, often end up in leadership jobs. To that extent, the value of the educated human touch is likely to hold in a storm of technological and cultural change.

—Nathan Heller

For centuries, higher education has fought against censorship and for the principle that the best way to combat speech is with more speech. To combat bad ideas is with better ideas.

—Neeli Bendapudi,
Penn State University
President

While higher education has long been seen as the key to achieving the American Dream, rising tuition costs, a hot labor market and campus politics may be why college enrollment in the US has dropped over the past decade….The annual cost of attending a four-year college was roughly $10,000 in 1980 (adjusted for inflation in 2020 dollars). As of 2020, it was approximately $30,000 in that year's dollars, leading many potential students to wonder whether a four-year degree is really worth that money.

—Harold Vazquez (2023)

One of the leading courses at Harvard now is introductory statistics, enrolling some seven hundred students a semester, up from ninety in 2005. Even if I'm in the humanities, and giving my impression of something, somebody might point out to me, 'Well, who was your sample? How are you gathering your data?' I mean, statistics is everywhere. It's part of any good critical analysis of things.

—Henry Haimo, *Harvard* Student [2023]

In 2007, the university [Arizona State University] received twenty-eight per cent of its operating budget from the state; last year, it was only nine per cent, for a budget of $4.6 billion. 'We are operating in full enterprise modality,' the president, Michael Crow, announced. To put it differently: many of the greatest American public universities increasingly run as private businesses.

—Nathan Heller [2023]

There are…far fewer high-school-only graduates among Millennials than among previous generations, and many more with a college degree. Millennials are the first American generation in which more than one out of three had a four year college degree by their late 20s, up from one out of four when GenXers were in that age bracket. And two out of three Millennials have attended college for at least a year.

—Jean M. Twenge (2023)

One of the challenges of universities is to model the behavior that we would like to see in the world around us….This is one of the great benefits of a residential higher education experience….We should bring people of all different races, sexes, genders, abilities and importantly, politically different students—not all with the same biases or predilections—and bring them all together and help them learn from each other. They don't have to be persuaded. They don't have to be brought over to a particular viewpoint, but they should learn how to respect other viewpoints and know that there are other people who have legitimate beliefs that are different from theirs.

—Michael Schill, President of *Northwestern University*

An educational approach with German roots was adopted by Scandinavian societies in the mid-to-late 19th century had a wide influence on America. It was called *Bildung*, roughly meaning 'spiritual formation.' As conceived by Wilhelm von Humboldt, the *Bildung* approach gave professors complete freedom to put moral development at the center of a university's mission. In the schools across Scandinavia, students studied literature and folk cultures to identify their own emotions, wounds, and weaknesses, in order to become the complex human beings that modern society required. Schools in the *Bildung* tradition also aimed to clarify the individual's responsibilities to the wider world—family, friends, nation, humanity. Start with a soul and move outward.

—David Brooks

More and more colleges and universities are offering courses on what you might call 'How to Live.' Yale has one called 'Life Worth Living.' Notre Dame has one called 'God and the Good Life. A first-year honors program in this vein at Valparaiso university, in Indiana, involves not just conducting formal debates and ideas gleaned from the Great Books, but putting on a musical production based on their themes.

—David Brooks

For the first half of the 20th century, American higher education was rife with antisemitism. Universities that didn't ban Jews established quotas to limit their numbers. Forced to take up their own cause, the Jewish community founded *Brandeis University* in 1948. It was the first secular university founded by the American Jewish community, established specifically to fight antisemitism, racism, and sexism; it welcomed students of all backgrounds and beliefs.

—*Brandeis University*

The worst part about getting a degree in something is that people will assume you're good at it.

@LurkAtHomeMom

I would never discourage students from attending a university because of costs. Often students are encouraged to attend a community college because it's low-cost or free. There is an opportunity cost that students may be unaware of. Students can miss out on valuable opportunities such as networking, study abroad programs, and in some cases they may have a different quality of education.

—Jose Cardenas, High School Counselor

Choosing where you go to college is a major decision, but it will not make or break your career. You may need to take a break from school or transfer to a different institution after you make your first choice and that's perfectly OK.

—Monica Torres

Before the Civil War, America had few institutions like *Antioch College*. Founded in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1850, Antioch was coed and unaffiliated with any religious sect; it was also the first college in the nation to hire a woman to serve on its faculty as an equal with her male colleagues. It was unquestionably progressive, and would not have been that way without its first president: Horace Mann.

—Adam Harris

The widespread research dishonesty in psychology stemmed from poor incentives—interesting findings are published, and being published gets you funding and job security and notoriety and sometimes even corporate consulting contracts, and it's easier to produce an interesting finding if you juke your data—and was made possible by lax practices that prevailed until recently, including researchers not being expected to share their raw data for review by others.

—Josh Barro

Parents' obsession with their kids attending their own elite alma maters is also not acknowledging the reality that college, in general, is much harder to get into than it was 30 or 40 years ago. In 1980, almost 21% of those who applied to Y*ale University* were admitted. In 2023, that number was just 4.4%. At the *University of California*, Los Angeles, 42% of those who applied in 1989 were admitted. In 2023, just under 9% were accepted. 'A lot of parents went to prestigious colleges when the acceptance rate was 20%,' Jennifer Breheny Wallace says. 'When my husband and I both went to *Harvard*, the acceptance rate was 18%. Now it's 3%. The idea that children are held to a standard that parents would not be able to meet, it's something for parents to keep in mind.' While the intention might be to encourage kids to do their best, many parents are sending the message that if you don't get into a specific school or earn a high salary then you are of less value.

—Aditi Shrikant

Marie Maynard Daly (1921-2003) became the first African-American woman in the United States awarded a PhD in chemistry, from *Columbia University* in 1947. Her pioneering work investigated the links between cholesterol and heart disease and the effects of cigarette smoking on the lungs.

—Susan Dominus

Successful completion of high school calculus has long been an unofficial must-have for those seeking admission to the nation's top colleges: The course has, for decades, served as a signal to admissions officers that a student's coursework has been robust.

—Jo Napolitano

[Inequalities:] A student at *Cornell University*…has a buffet of choices, including more than four dozen languages as varied as Sinhala, Old Norse, Farsi, Khmer, and ancient Greek. By contrast, a student at *West Virginia University* will soon have just four choices—Chinese, Arabic, French, and Spanish—and there will not be enough instructors for students to major in any of them.

—Michael Powell (2023)

Critics of American higher education… tend to dismiss certain degrees as arcane and impractical. Majoring in linguistics, for example, might seem frivolous to some, although it is rather relevant to natural language processing and psychoacoustics—the fields that produced Siri and Alexa.…A major in philosophy or art history can lend itself to a lucrative career in law, in government, or at a tech start-up.

—Michael Powell

West Virginia University is one of two universities in the nation that let students major in puppetry. The joke writes itself: C'mon—puppetry?! Typically, fewer than a dozen students a year major in the program, although many more students take classes. Faculty and students reported that at a meeting in September, as students walked to the microphone to denounce budget cuts, several members of the board of governors rolled their eyes at mentions of puppetry. Yet the program has precious little overhead, its physical plant a 12-by-20-foot room filled with puppets and marionettes—a Jim Henson fever dream. Mary McClung, who teaches costume design, is the lone professor. A native West Virginian with a wry wit, she was a ceramic artist and sculptor until she decided she wanted her creations to open eyes and mouths and come to life. She set up shop at WVU and, like a pied piper, drew students. 'You are designing environments, new skin and eyeballs and characters. This is rich for students and promises a career outside of cubicles.' Her former students have found jobs in early-childhood classrooms, CGI labs, and Hollywood studios.

—Michael Powell

You can save your kids, and yourself, a lot of stress by deflating that myth that college prestige is the secret to success. Where you go to college matters less than what you do there. Attending a prestigious college—or, any college, really—doesn't guarantee any ideal future, research shows. You can, and should, provide your kids with real examples of happy and successful people who didn't attend a highly-selective college. We all know people who went to these highly selective schools whose lives did not turn out as well as they had hoped. And we all have adults in our lives, who [went to] schools we've never even heard of before, whose lives turned out extraordinary. Parents should also teach children to get the most out of their education, no matter where they end up.

—Jennifer Breheny Wallace

Among college graduates, future wellbeing primarily depends on the experiences you accrue while on campus, according to a 2014 survey of 30,000 U.S. college graduates by *Gallup* and *Purdue University*. That might include extracurricular activities, a particularly engaging internship or finding a mentor who helped make learning more enjoyable.

—Tom Huddleston Jr.

MOST REGRETTED COLLEGE MAJORS
Percentage of graduates who would pick a different major if they could:
Journalism 87%
Sociology 72%
Liberal arts/general studies 72%
Communication 64%
Education 61%
Marketing management + research 60%
Medical/clinical assisting 58%
Political science + government 56%
Biology 52%
English language + literature 52%

—**Zip Recruiter's Monthly Survey** of 15,000 Jobseekers (2022)

College isn't just about learning facts—it's about social growth and how to function in society. College teaches you how to be independent and accepting of ideas that may be different than your own, so if you're able to go to college, use your time there wisely.

—*theChive*

For the vast majority of jobs, employers don't care what you major in. Employers care about your skills, your ability to communicate, your ability to critically think and problem solve, and they're usually willing to train you on a lot of the specifics.

—Christine Cruzvergara

California is one of nine states that banned the use of affirmative action for public universities (1996). In the immediate aftermath, selective schools in the state had a 50% decline in Black and Latino students admitted. Those numbers have never rebounded.

—Femi Ogundele (2023)

Going to college is not necessary to exist on this planet. Education is absolutely wonderful and vital, and I think everyone who wants to go to college should. Just don't bo thinking that a diploma will be your ticket to a successful life.

—Dave Ramsey

I was going to be a doctor since I was three, so I was pre-med in college. Everything I did, every class I took, pointed toward the 'holy M.D.' Friends were taking wine-tasting classes, studying human sexuality, or redefining their views of the world in poli-sci, and I was memorizing anatomy and crying over o-chem.

—Yael Cohen

When young people say to me 'what can I study to be a force for change, should I study law or biology or business?' My answer is music, drama, journalism, communications.

—Paul Watson

You know, I have a lot of books on my iPad, but when I try to read them, I find myself wandering off to play games. Those are books I'm interested in. I can't imagine what would have happened to me in college if my biology class had been on the same computer as 'Words With Friends' and 'Doom.'

—Gail Collins

Athletes, we were supposed to just be there, and in class I made it a point that I was prepared for every exam, that I got on that Dean's List. Because I wanted them to see that there was a black person on the Dean's List who was an athlete. I accepted the challenge, because I want you to know that we bleed just like you do. We have feelings just like you do. Let us read the same books and we'll understand it just like you do!

—Lenny Wilkens

Sorority life teaches you to embrace your flaws and celebrate your uniqueness.

—Alexandra Robbins

When I left for *Yale*, my father said, 'If they don't treat you right, come on home'. And I cried. Because that was so empowering. It meant that 'our opinion of you is not based on the judgment of some anonymous people 424 miles away—whether they went to *Yale* or not.

—Henry Louis Gates

Sorority life isn't just about parties and pretty dresses. It's about sisterhood, support, and finding your true self.

—Alexandra Robbins

Sorority life is a tapestry of diverse personalities, each adding a vibrant thread to the whole.

—Alexandra Robbins

Success is sweeter when shared with sisters who have seen you at your lowest and cheered for you at your best.

—Alexandra Robbins

Being a part of a sorority means never having to face life's challenges alone.

—Alexandra Robbins

Sorority life is a journey of self-discovery, where you learn to embrace all that you are and all that you can be.

—Alexandra Robbins

Sorority life is about creating memories that will last a lifetime and forming bonds that will never be broken.

—Alexandra Robbins

Not four years, but for life.

—Unknown

People ask why I am in a sorority and I try to explain all the things a sorority is that they cannot see. A sorority is more than letters on a sweatshirt, I say. More than traditional songs, a gold pin, rituals, and obligation, or a way of life. A sorority is learning about people, a sorority is giving without expecting a return. A sorority is earning respect from others, as well as for yourself. A sorority will not solve all your problems. But I have made good friends and found confidence there to help me take life one step at a time.

—*Lambda Nu Xi Sorority Inc.*

Sisterhood is many things. It's a warm smile on a cold and rainy day, a friendly hug, a cheerful hello...It"s all that a good and lasting friendship is, only better. It's treasured. It's sacred. It's knowing that there will always be someone there for you. It's dreams shared, and goals achieved. It's counting on others and being counted on. It is real.

—in K*o Pha-ngan*, Thailand

Sisters touch your heart in ways no others could. Sisters share their hopes, their fears, their love, everything they have. Real friendship springs from their special bonds.

—Carrie Bagwel

Sisterhood is the essence of the wisdom of all the ages distilled into a single word. You cannot see sisterhood; neither can you hear it nor taste it. But you can feel it a hundred times a day. It is a pat on the back, a smile of encouragement. It's someone to share with, to celebrate your achievements.

—*http://uwa.phimu.org*

It's not just letters, parties & good times. It is a feeling that will never leave you as long as you live. It is a responsibility & a duty to yourself & your sisters. It is an eternal love.

--*https://www.angelfire.com*

Sororities aren't about drinking & boys & Kate Spade & Prada (or even Lilly Pulitzer). Sororities are about laughter, tears, friendship, sisterhood, honor, loyalty & love. The people in my sorority want me to succeed. They help me to rise up & allow others to follow. At retreats we share in times that we will remember forever. But it's not really just my sorority. Homecoming, Socials, Parents' Weekend & other Greek activities have given me the opportunity to find out what is unique about each sorority & I really find wonderful friends among them all. We need to let other people know who we are. Greeks are not exclusive—they are merely one group of many. I have heard the jokes, we all have…about what non-Greek students may think about us. But I challenge you—prove them wrong. Don't just try to make your house look good, try to make Greeks look good. Let people know that we are athletes, we are scholars, we come from diverse backgrounds & we have diverse goals. But let them know that we have similarities. We are all in the constant pursuit of success. We are all working to achieve our goals & we are all making friendships that last a lifetime. So be proud, prove people wrong…Remember that although my sorority may have different history & ideals than yours, that we are all here for common reasons.

—*https://cmkelham.wordpress.com*

College may last four years, but a sister is forever.

—*https://www.somethinggreek.com*

When sisters stand shoulder to shoulder, who stands a chance against us?

—Pam Brown

I didn't come to college to find my husband. I came to find my bridesmaids.

—*https://www.somethinggreek.com*

For me, joining a sorority was the smartest thing I ever did. It made it seem as if I was surrounded by family throughout my college experience. Through thick and thin, these are the women who will stand by your side because you are bonded through your shared experiences. Sisterhood helped me through some hard times in college and the support I feel has followed me now that I am an alumna.

To this day, I know that I have an incredible group of strong, independent women around the world who have my back (even if we have never met in person). We have a Facebook page for alumnae where we can connect with others in similar professions or in the same geographic region to get career advice, or just be friends and support each other as sisters. Joining a sisterhood isn't just for your collegiate years, but truly is for life.

—Megan Falk

Sororities provide the opportunity to interact with women from all majors, grade levels, socio-economic statuses and racial backgrounds. You are able to challenge the way you view the word and connect with members as you all grow and learn together. Through programs and workshops, you begin to connect with your sisters and create sense of community that bonds you together.

At the same time, sororities encourage philanthropy and service. Members fundraise and volunteer for nonprofit organizations and in their community. Having the opportunity to bring up an idea for a fundraiser for an organization you are particularly passionate for helps your sisters to truly understand you as a person, your background and what motivates you.

Sororities also provide specific times for members to connect with one another and build relationships. My sorority went on a retreat at least once a year. We rented a cabin in the mountains for a few days and did things you often think of doing with family—talking, hanging out and making meals together.

These shared connections helped us grow closer together and build a strong sisterhood. You share who you are as a person with these strangers and they do the same. Soon, they aren't strangers anymore. They are the women who are vulnerable with you and support you. They are the women who celebrate with you when you land your dream internship because they know how hard you've worked to get there. They are the women who cheer for you on graduation day because they know you're the first person in your family to graduate and how big of a deal that is for you. By opening up and sharing yourself with your sorority sisters, you are forming the bonds of sisterhood. A sisterhood that will last your whole life.

—Megan Falk

The ties that bind me to my Sisters are not wrapped around my wrists, but rather are fastened to my heart.

—https://www.somethinggreek.com

Although I get a lot of specialty services like wraps, scrubs, and mustache removal, my favorite is the simple manicure/pedicure. They work on your hands and feet at the same time while you sit in a vibrating chair. I call it the sorority girls version of a threesome.

—Jen Lancaster

Why do so many young people literally die to belong to fraternities, sororities, and other college social organizations? The answer is complicated, but here is a starting point: Ever since the medieval universities were founded, young people have done whatever it takes to gain acceptance, to break with their past lives, to achieve a sense of power, to carve out a society of their own that isn't quite what their tutors and teachers had in mind. In the United States, hazing and drinking have been endemic since colonial days.

—Hank Nuwer

Some of the morays have held on. When I was in school, I remember asking the question, 'Why is it that whenever I walk into a fraternity there's alcohol everywhere and there's no alcohol in a sorority? Why is it that sororities won't allow alcohol, but fraternities do? What is that?' You know, nobody had a really good answer, and that's kind of held on. It's one of the issues that's being examined now—the role of alcohol in sexual assault.

—Claire McCaskill

FRATERNITY MEN ARE..

> 3x more likely to obtain an internship while in college
> Almost 2x as likely to have a job waiting for them when they graduate
> 2x as likely to encourage others to attend their alma mater
> 5x as likely to give back financially to their alma mater
> Almost 5x as likely to be satisfied with their lives as alums
> More likely to intervene when a friend/peer is behaving in an unsafe manner

—*Gallup Research*

Fraternity members hold their peers accountable.
Research shows that fraternity men are more likely to intervene in higher-risk situations than those not affiliated and that they are more comfortable in providing accountability in the areas of academics, sexual relationships, professional/career goals, personal goals, and hazing, Additionally, they cite a greater responsibility to support the personal and professional growth of their friends/peers—a proof point that affirms the meaning of true brotherhood.

—*Gallup Research*

What you'll learn in college won't be worth a God-damned. But you'll learn a way of life perhaps—a way to get on with people—an appreciation perhaps for just one thing: music, art, a book—all of this is bound to be unconscious learning—it's part of a liberal education in the broad sense of the term.

—Philip Alvin Schribman

This university is not maintained by its alumni, by the state, merely to help its graduates have an economic advantage in the life struggle. There is certainly a greater purpose, and I'm sure you recognize it.…How many of you who are going to be doctors are willing to spend your days in Ghana? Technicians or engineers, how many of you are willing to work in the Foreign Service and spend your lives traveling around the world? On your willingness to do that, not merely to serve one year or two in the service, but on your willingness to contribute part of your life to this country, I think will depend the answer whether a free society can compete.

—Richard Goodwin

Welcome to college. Where every single person is smarter than you except for the three people in your group project.

—Casey Wright

I used to keep my college room mate from reading my personal mail by hiding it in her textbooks.

—Joan Welsh

The liberal arts foundation informs who we are as people and professionals, providing us insight into self-reflection, critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and appreciation of the lived experiences of others.

—Mary Groll

If I were advising my kids, I would say first and foremost, you have to find a degree program that combines your passion with some sort of practical skill that the world actually needs.

—Shad White

Fraternity members hold their peers accountable. Research shows that fraternity men are more likely to intervene in higher-risk situations than those not affiliated and that they are more comfortable in providing accountability in the areas of academics, sexual relationships, professional/career goals, personal goals, and hazing. Additionally, they cite a greater responsibility to support the personal and professional growth of their friends/peers—a proof point that affirms the meaning of true brotherhood.

—*www.sigmanu.org*

Is it ethical to be teaching journalism right now?….I don't think students always know exactly where to go after they graduate. Because there are shrinking positions available. So people are trying to fit into these positions, but there are more and more and more applicants and they're also being squeezed against people from larger places that have been laid off so I just ethically wonder like, are people being prepared for jobs that no longer exist?

— Tulika Bose (2024)

America believes in education: the average professor earns more money in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week.

—Evan Esar

Over the past decade, students have become overwhelmed by the reading. College kids have never read everything they were assigned, of course, but …students now seem bewildered by the thought of finishing multiple books a semester.…Many students no longer arrive at college—even at highly selective, elite colleges—prepared to read books.

—Rose Horowitch (2024)

Teenagers are constantly tempted by their devices, which inhibits their preparation for the rigors of college coursework—then they get to college, and the distractions keep flowing.…Reading books, even for pleasure, can't compete with TikTok, Instagram, YouTube. In 1976, about 40 percent of high school seniors said they had read at least six books for fun in the previous year compared with 11.5 percent who hadn't read any. By 2022, those percentages had flipped.

—Rose Horowitch (2024)

Whether through atrophy or apathy, a generation of students is reading fewer books. They might read more as they age—older adults are the most voracious readers—but the data are not encouraging. The *American Time Use Survey* shows that the overall pool of people who read books for pleasure has shrunk over the past two decades.…Students see reading books as akin to listening to vinyl records—somethings that a small subculture may still enjoy, but that's mostly a relic of an earlier time.

—Rose Horowitch (2024)

Our students are living in a time when the career that they've trained for is not likely to be the career that they're going to be following 10 years later.….It's not true that all students want from college is the job. They are hungry for an education that transforms them, an education that addresses their entire selves, not just a bank account.

—Jeffrey Cohen (2023)

Admissions decisions in the United States are based on some qualities that, however admirable, have a little or nothing to do with academic aptitude. In contrast, at *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, in the United Kingdom, undergraduate admissions are typically conducted by the same academics who will teach those students. Most personal statements primarily consist of a discussion of which books the student has read and what they learned from them. Students are then expected to discuss these books in more detail in an interview.

—Ione Fine

Every coherent society has a social ideal—an image of what the superior person looks like. In America, from the late 19th century until sometime in the 1950s, the superior person was the Well-Bred Man. Such a man was born into one of the old WASP families that dominated the elite social circles on Fifth Avenue, in New York City; the Main Line, outside Philadelphia; Beacon Hill, in Boston. He was molded at a prep school like *Groton* or *Choate*, and came of age at *Harvard*, *Yale*, or *Princeton*. In those days, you didn't have to be brilliant or hardworking to get into *Harvard*, but it really helped if you were 'clubbable'—good looking, athletic, graceful, casually elegant, Episcopalian, and white.

—David Brooks

Universities came to realize that the more people they reject, the more their cachet soars. Some of these rejection academies run marketing campaigns to lure more and more applicants—and then brag about turning away 96 percent of them.

—David Brooks

From 1901 to 1921, every American president went to *Harvard*, *Yale*, or *Princeton*.

—David Brooks

Those who manage to squeeze through the stem of a few prestigious colleges and universities can then branch out to fill leadership positions in almost every vocation.

—Michael Lind

Today's elite school admissions officers might want to look at the whole person—but they won't read your beautiful essay if you don't pass the first threshold of great intelligence, as measured by high grades and sparkling SAT or ACT scores.

—David Brooks

For all the American education system's flaws, our elite universities are doing pioneering research, generating tremendous advances in fields such as biotech, launching bright students into the world, and driving much of the American economy. Our top universities remain the envy of the world.

—David Brooks (2024)

In one study of 28,000 young students, those attending higher-ranking universities did only slightly better on consulting projects than those attending lower ranked universities.…For instance, a *Yale* student would have been only about 1.9 percent more proficient than a student from *Cleveland State* when measured by the quality of their work. The *Yale* student would also have been more likely to be a jerk: The researchers found that students from higher-ranking colleges and universities, while nominally more effective than other students, were more likely to pay 'insufficient attention to interpersonal relationships,' and in some instances to be 'less friendly,' 'more prone to conflict,' and 'less likely to identify with their team.'

—David Brooks

In a 2017 paper, [Raj Chetty and others] reported that students from families in the top 1 percent of earners were 77 times more likely to attend an Ivy League-level school than students who came from families making $30,000 a year or less. Many elite schools draw more students from the top 1 percent of earners than from the bottom 60 percent.

—David Brooks

The average high-school graduate will earn about $1 million less over their lifetime than the average four-year-college graduate. The average person without a four-year college degree lives about eight years less than the average four-year-college grad. Thirty-five percent of high school graduates are obese, compared with 27 percent of four-year-college grads. High-school grads are much less likely to get married, and women with high-school degrees are about twice as likely to divorce within 10 years of marrying as women with college degrees. Nearly 60 percent of births to women with high-school degrees or less happen out of wedlock; that's roughly five times higher than the rate for women with at least a bachelor's degree. The opioid death rate for those with a high-school degree is about 10 times higher than those with at least a bachelor's degree.…The most significant gap may be social.…Nearly a quarter of people with a high-school degree or less say they have no close friends, whereas only 10 percent of those with college degrees or more say that. Those whose education doesn't extend past high school spend less time in public spaces, less time in hobby groups and sports leagues. They're less likely to host friends and family in their home.

—David Brooks (2024)

The librarians believe that [the university student] seldom reads any books required by his courses, and they warmly encourage any evidence of a desire to read for the mere pleasure of the book.

—Estelle Frances Ward
(1924)

College transformed me. It wasn't just the classes taught by world-class professors or the research I did. It was conversations with my peers in the hallways, deep and sometimes difficult discussions in the classroom and, most of all, exposure to people who thought differently than I did.
Being exposed to different viewpoints from both an academic perspective and from my classmates' lived experiences allowed me to grow as an academic, a researcher and a person. It changed my entire worldview and helped me develop new and very different perspectives on politics and civic life. This is what a great university does —it provides the opportunity to learn from and alongside people who look, think and act differently than we do, spurring innovation at the intersection of disciplines and ideas and preparing students to be active and informed participants in our democracy.

--Michael H. Schill,
Northwestern University
President

At the beginning of the new session the student is full of enthusiasm. He buys a heap of books, and spreads them out, leafing them, smelling them, …fancying that in each is something wholly new, something unheard that the unknown is in them.

—Robert Lynd

Teenagers go to college to be with their boyfriends and girlfriends; they go because they can't think of anything else to do; they go because their parents want them to and sometimes because their parents don't want them to; they go to find themselves, or to find a husband, or to get away from home, and sometimes even to find out about the world in which they live.

—Harold Howe

For students with learning disabilities, the extra time [for testing] may be necessary to complete the test. But unlike a wheelchair ramp, this kind of accommodation can be exploited. Research confirms what intuition suggests: extra time can confirm an advantage to students who don't have a disability.

—Rose Horowitch

According to [Robert] Weiss's research, only 3 to 4 percent of students at public two-year colleges receive accommodations, a proportion that has stayed relatively stable over the past 10 to 15 years. He and his co-authors found that students with learning disabilities who request accommodations at community colleges 'tend to have histories of academic problems beginning in childhood' and evidence of ongoing impairment. At four year institutions, by contrast, about half of the students have no record of a diagnosis or disability classification prior to beginning college.

—Rose Horowitch (2026)

There are wealthy parents who are willing to pay unscrupulous doctors to provide disability diagnoses to their non-disabled children, securing them extra time on standardized tests. Studies have found that a significant share of students exaggerates symptoms or don't put in enough effort to get valid results on diagnostic tests.

—Rose Horowitch

In recent years, a college education has become one of the most reliable indicators of both economic well-being and voting behavior. Americans with a college degree tend to make 75 percent more money over their lifetime than those without, and in the past three presidential elections, these better-educated, wealthier voters have moved steadily to the Democratic Party.

—George Packer (2026)

Professors simply can't discuss a thing. Habit compels them to give a lecture.

—Hal Boyle

Use of a university is to make young gentlemen as unlike their fathers as possible.

—Woodrow Wilson

The *University of Oxford* is older than the Aztec Empire: teaching was taking place at *Oxford* by 1096, more than three centuries before the Aztec Empire was established in 1428.

—*University of Oxford*
—*Our History*

Your degree is just a piece of paper; your education is seen in your behavior.

—Internet Meme

The blue book meant timed essays and handwritten work, modes of assessment that felt regressive, cruel. It recalled an age of higher education—punitive in bleak, the domain of Dickens's stern Mr. Gradgrind—that the modern university was eager to outgrow. Not entirely, of course; some faculty still lugged boxes of blue books home in the snow and scribbled grades in red on the covers. But alternatives to the in-person exam proliferated: the capstone project, the take-home essay, the portfolio of selected work from the semester.

—Walt Hunter

In 2024, only 8 percent of college graduates earned a bachelors degree in a humanities discipline. That year, both English and history departments awarded 40 percent fewer degrees than they did in 2012.

—Rose Horowitch

[The] higher-education system [offers] teenagers an uncertain future in exchange for often unpayable debt, and [asks] scholars—enticed by the tweedy dream of a kind of faculty life that has long since been clubbed to death—to keep waiting for the real job that would surely come after the temporary job, and the next temporary job, and the next.

—Tyler Austin Harper
(2026)

Hi, Norwegian here. In the USA, medical school tuition is typically over $200,000. In Norway: Nothing. Students get government loans for living costs. Each semester you pass, up to 40% converts to a grant. This is why a cashier's child can become a doctor in Norway. Your academic abilities matter, not who your parents are.

—*Emotional Touch* Social Media Post

10 RULES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

- ➢ Never skip the first class of the semester.
- ➢ Your roommate doesn't have to be, your best friend.
- ➢ Say yes to one club, not to five.
- ➢ Never pull an all nighter before an exam; sleep is a study tool.
- ➢ If it's not on the syllabus, ask before you assume.
- ➢ Befriend someone in every class in the first week, in case you need notes.
- ➢ *Paperpal* is the best website for research papers.
- ➢ Don't let one bad grade convince you the class is unbeatable.
- ➢ Sit in the front third of the room. Your GPA will thank you.
- ➢ Office hours are a cheat code. Almost nobody uses them.

—*Academia with sally*
Social Media Post



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