

EN202-ON01

E-PORTFOLIO

Trini Iguel

Essay 2: Persuasive Essay

Introduction

Everyone makes choices, some choices have huge impacts on a person's life and others have minimal impact. For example, choosing a restaurant for dinner would not be counted as a big decision to most people, but deciding if you want to go to college or not? Now that is what most people would call a life changing decision. To some, college can be very intimidating, not just because it takes time and commitment but mostly because it is very costly. Some high school students tend to hear or read about college debts and paying off student loans and that thought could be scary to some people, especially those who come from low-income and working families. Some students might want to attend college but decide not to because of the high tuition rates and the expensive books, they just can't afford something like that, even with scholarships. As far as the students that do decided to go and believe that they would be able to make it through, aside from being a full-time students, most of them would likely need to get jobs. This research paper will focus on the impact college debts have on future life decisions and why.

Background

College debts play a huge role in the decision making process of someone that is deciding whether or not they should attend college, it also plays a huge role with where a person should go to college. Some students do research and see the estimated amount that would need to spent at a certain college and immediately close the tab. This research question is important because it pretty much affects the lives of everyone. Everyone has the choice to attend college or not but for some, it could just be financially impossible. Another reason why it's important is because almost everyone who plans to attend college, is currently attending college, or have graduated from college is struggling because of college debts.

Literature

https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sharpecw/college_tuition_and_student_debt/0

This article was found on CREDO, it talks about the reason why tuition rates are so high and the impact of those tuition rates on not only the graduates, but society as well.

https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sageedecfnan/tuition_and_fees_higher_education/0

This article explains the terms “tuition”, “fees”, and “college costs”, understanding these terms will help the reader get a better understanding of what the researcher paper will be talking about and why the subject is important.

<https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/financial-challenges-no-barrier-to-college/>

This article was found on the Saipan Tribune website. It talks about how getting a quality college is not a problem if the student plans to attend NMC. It also talk about the resources and scholarship programs that could assist the students financially.

<https://www.wisebread.com/how-student-loan-debt-can-derail-your-future>

This article was found on the internet, it talks about graduates who took out student loans and are now suffering the consequences by not being able to do what they are truly passionate about. A lot of the people who were written about are being controlled by the repayment of their student loan.

The primary research question for this research paper is “Do college debts affect future life decisions?” Other questions that could be asked are: What are some other factors that might have an impact on your decision to attend college? Would the estimated costs be a factor in what college you decide to attend? How might yours or your parents’ income affect your decision to go to college? If you were to attend a four year university, do you believe that you would be able to be a full-time student and work a part-time job as well?

The research paper will consist of information from various articles, professionals, and students from Saipan and off-island.

Time Management

When to Find Literature and Data	Writing Schedule of Class Essays
	May 2 nd Redraft
2 days before due date from 10:00 A.M-12:00 P.M	May 10 th Essay 3 Process
	May 16 th Redraft
2 days before due date from 10:00 A.M-12:00 P.M	May 24 th Essay 4 Descriptive
	May 30 th Redraft
2 days before due date from 10:00 A.M-12:00 P.M	June 7 th Final Research Report
	June 14 Redraft

This information based off of a personal scheduling planner that consists of what needs to be done and the specific time that allotted to complete the tasks. Other than school, the researcher has no other commitments so time should not be an issue.

Conclusion

Lastly, everyone should be informed about the possible consequences of taking out student loans and being in debt after graduation, this issue seems to be an epidemic these days. This issue was chosen as the research topic so that others would be educated. The questions that will be asked are questions that the researcher struggles with personally as well. This person wants to learn about the others who are struggling and ways of alleviating the issues. Different journals and articles will be used and surveys will be distributed to the effected populations. Another way that information will be gained will be through those assisting those who are impacted by the financial struggles such as advisors, instructors, mentors, and the financial aide office.

References

- Cabrera, B., & Cabrera, B. (2018, August 12). 'Financial challenges no barrier to college'. Retrieved from <https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/financial-challenges-no-barrier-to-college/>
- Ciment, J. (2013). College tuition and student debt. In R. Chapman, & J. Ciment (Eds.), *Culture wars in America: An encyclopedia of issues, viewpoints, and voices* (2nd ed.). London, UK: Routledge. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sharpecw/college_tuition_and_student_debt/0?institutionId=9301
- Ehrenberg, R. G. (2014). Tuition and fees, higher education. In D. J. Brewer, & L. O. Picus (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sageedecfnan/tuition_and_fees_higher_education/0?institutionId=9301
- How Student Loan Debt Can Derail Your Future. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.wisebread.com/how-student-loan-debt-can-derail-your-future>

Essay 3: Process Essay

Introduction

Everyone makes choices, some choices have huge impacts on a person's life and others have minimal impact. For example, choosing a restaurant for dinner would not be counted as a big decision to most people, but deciding if you want to go to college or not? Now that is what most people would call a life changing decision. To some, college can be very intimidating, not just because it takes time and commitment but mostly because it is very costly. Some high school students tend to hear or read about college debts and paying off student loans and that thought could be scary to some people, especially those who come from low-income and working families. Some students might want to attend college but decide not to because of the high tuition rates and the expensive books, they just can't afford something like that, even with scholarships. As far as the students that do decided to go and believe that they would be able to make it through, aside from being a full-time student, most of them would likely need to get jobs. College debt has a very large impact in the decision making process in terms of going to college, this will be proven through various surveys, letters to experts, and various journals and articles.

Method 1

The first thing the researcher did was distribute a survey to 38 NMC students. Through a shared google docs assignment in class, the researcher distributed a survey highlighting issues in terms of factors that would have an impact in the decision to attend college. The researcher asked some demographic questions so that the collected data could be analyzed more accurately. A question about what factors might have an impact on the decision to attend college was also asked. Another question was about the current income of the student or the caregiver of the student and if that could also possibly be a factor. In order gain a better understanding, the researcher also asked the students if their decision to attend the Northern Marianas College was their initial decision or if

other factors influenced that. Another thing that the researcher wanted thoughts on was if the students would be able to manage having a part-time job along with being a full-time college student. Lastly, the researcher asked if the students believed that the financial aid would be enough to cover all college costs and how the students might feel about taking out a student loan. These questions were asked so that the researcher would have a better understanding as to why students chose the Northern Marianas College and how big of an impact college debt had in that decision.

Method 2

The second thing that had been done was the distribution of 10 letters to experts on and off-island. The researcher will write letters to consult with experts with this particular topic. Letters will be sent out to someone who has obtained their Master's Degree and someone who is in the process of obtaining the Master's degree. Letters will also be sent to someone who has obtained their Baccalaureate's Degree and someone who is also in the process. A letter to a person who has obtained their Associate's degree will be sent out and a question asking why the person had decided not to continue will be asked. The researcher will also consult with a person who had the intention of attending college but could not and the reasons as to why. Other letters will be sent to people who work in the financial aid office, the board members of SHEFA, the director of CNMI Scholarship Office, those in charge at FAFSA, and those in the Committee of Education. The researcher will send letters to these people because the experts on this field are those who have been through the system, those who are going through the system, those who appropriate the funds going into financial aid, and those who are at the head of the education system.

Method 3

Lastly, the researcher has read various articles and journals about college debt. College debt is a world-wide epidemic that a lot of people are writing about. There is a lot of information that is being shared on the subject. There are more than just articles, there are actual educational journals, and speeches from highly accredited individuals. This methodology was chosen to be used because

this subject is more than just the observation and personal experiences of the researcher. There are actual studies being conducted on college debts, why tuition rates are so high, the impact it has on society, and the personal experiences that former students are dealing with after graduation. Some of the journals were found on the CREDO database and some articles were found on the internet.

Conclusion

In conclusion, people make life-changing decisions almost everyday, particularly the decision on whether or not to attend college or where to attend college. The idea of college could be very intimidating to a lot of people, not just because it takes a lot of time and commitment, but also because of the fact that it is very costly. The thought of taking out student loans and being in debt after graduation is something that a lot of people just can't afford. There are many many factors that could influence this decision. The research paper that will be written will prove that by analyzing data from a survey that has been distributed to students attending the Northern Marianas College, writing letters to those who are in charge of appropriating funds and to those who have experience with financial aide and college debt, and research that will be conducted through articles and journals. These methods of gaining information will give the researcher the necessary data and experiences of others that will be needed to complete the research paper. The researcher will have a better understanding in terms of why people choose not go to college or further their education, how funds are appropriated and why a specific amount is given, and what other information others are learning about in terms of college debt.

Essay 4: Literature Review

Literature Review

College debt is something that seems to be very common these days. Does college debt have an impact on future life decisions? In order to answer the research question, the researcher will

utilize various research methods. The researcher will also remain unbiased and will not include personal beliefs, that may have an impact on the credibility of the research paper, in the assignment. This literature review will analyze three literatures that highlight the topic of college debt. The first literature review that will be analyzed will be an article by called, "Tuition and Fees, Higher Education." The second literature review will that will be analyzed will be on an article called, "Student Loans: Do Students Borrow Too Much-Or Not Enough?" The last literature review that will be analyzed is a study on, "The Impact of Cost on College Choice."

There are many people that are unfamiliar with college terms that are often being used. According to Ehrenbreg (2014), tuition and fees and college costs have two different definitions. Tuition and fees refer to the posted costs of the academic institutions, college costs on the other hand, also incorporates the tuition and fees in addition to dining, housing, books, and other expenses that may be accumulated throughout the year or semester. The costs of those that are residents of the state differ from those who are not, these charges are known as in-state tuition, for those who reside in the state, and out of state tuition, for those who reside out of state. In-state tuition is historically significantly lower than out of state tuition prices. Although tuition and fees and college costs are pricey, Erenbreg (2014) states, "Students often pay less than the posted level of tuition and fees because of the availability of grains aid provided by federal and state governments, the institution itself, and other private and public sources." This literature relates to the research topic because it is essential that the reader understands the terms being used throughout the research paper.

Some, such as Avery & Turner (2012) state that, "a combination of wage declines in entry-level jobs and increases in college tuition have placed many high school graduates in a no-win situation, pressuring them to take on unimaginable levels of financial risk in the form of student loans." Another issue that arises due to student loans is the choice of careers that a student might decide on. According to Avery & Turner (2012), evidence has proven that the burdens of student

debt makes students less likely to choose a lower paying career, such as a teacher, compared to other careers that may generate more revenue. Students are more likely to choose jobs with a higher income, even if the job is not what was planned in order to pay off student loans. The annual amount of federal loans has increased from 10.5 million in 1980 to 17.6 billion in 2009, this is due to the fact that the overall undergraduate enrollment has also shown an increase throughout the years. Another issue that may come about is that students could sometimes misunderstand information and that could lead to possibly over-borrowing if the students over estimate the costs and in other situations, under-borrowing if the students do not avail to available borrowing opportunities. This literature relates to the research topic because it discusses many issues that are going to be addressed in the research paper.

According to Lillis & Tian (2008), “ colleges continue to find an increased need to emphasize affordability in their message to prospective students.” Lillie & Tian (2008) began a study on how the costs of college and financial support has an impact on the process of choosing a college. Using affordability as part of recruitment strategy has become popular to colleges, a survey conducted in 2002 actually proved that about 36% of institutions use that strategy. Average tuition and fees have continued moving at an increasingly steady pace throughout the years by 36 percent for private four- year colleges and 51% for public four year colleges. It is no surprise that higher education is priced beyond what low-income and middle-income families can afford and these students are faced with economic disadvantages. The study that was conducted proved that, not only students but parents as well, are influenced mostly by the tuition rates and the location of a college amongst other factors such as, available majors, academic reputation, the faculty, diversity, and so on. The reason as to why the students also considered location in their choice was because of the significantly lower commuter cost compared to colleges located at a greater distance.

Does College debt have an impact on future life decisions? The research question will be answered through various research methods. This literature review highlighted three different

scholarly articles that have been found through Google Scholar and the Credo Reference Database. The first literature that was analyzed explained some of the terms that will be used throughout the research paper. The second literature that was analyzed was about whether or not students over-borrow or under-borrow when taking out student loans. Lastly, the researcher analyzed a study on tuition rates having an impact on the college a student might choose to attend. The literature will strengthen the research paper by assisting the reader in better understanding the terms that will be used and also by using credible literature and various other research methods to answer the research question at hand.

References

- Ehrenberg, R. G. (2014). Tuition and fees, higher education. In D. J. Brewer, & L. O. Picus (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sageedecfnan/tuition_and_fees_higher_education/0?institutionId=9301
- Avery, C., & Turner, S. (2012). Student Loans: Do College Students Borrow Too Much—Or Not Enough? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26(1), 165-192. doi:10.1257/jep.26.1.165
- Lillis, M. P., Dr., & Tian, R. G., Dr. (2008). The Impact of Cost on College Choice. Retrieved May 24, 2019, from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ829466.pdf>

Reading Notes:

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # __ 1 __

Trini Iguel

__ Course ENCOURSE NAME _EN202__ Section_ON01_

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Holger Sieg and Yu Wang
2. Author's Credentials (Press Release)
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: National Bureau of Economic Research
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: The Impact of Student Debt on Education, Career, and Choices on Female Lawyers
5. Year Written: 2017
6. Pages: 59
7. Website URL: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w23453.pdf>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students	“Community College students are less likely than students	Data from a table shows that 62% of students that	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My assignment focuses on the impact college debt might

<p>attending community college are less likely to take out loans but are also more stressed.</p>	<p>enrolled in other sectors to rely on student loans. The difference is in large part a result of the lower prices they face, but many higher education professionals are concerned that these students are not borrowing enough and are instead working excessively and enrolling part-time.</p>	<p>attend a public two-year college graduate with no debt and only 1% graduates with a debt of \$40,000 or more.</p>	<p>have on future life decisions. This is relevant because it talks about how students who attend community colleges are less likely to have any debt after graduation and that relates to my personal research about why students have decided to attend NMC over a four-year university.</p>
<p>Main Ideas/Points</p>	<p>Important Quotations</p>	<p>Supporting Details</p>	<p>Relevance to Your Assignment</p>
<p>Students are more likely to attend community college's because it is a</p>	<p>“In 2007-08, students received an average of about \$1,700 in grant aid to pay their</p>	<p>In 2011, the average amount that a student will spend on tuition and</p>	<p>This is related to my assignment because it talks about how beneficial and financially convenient attending a community</p>

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 2

 Course ENCOURSE NAME EN202 Section ON01

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Dominic J. Brewer, Lawrence O. Picus
2. Author's Credentials: Article found on the CREDO database
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Sage Publications
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: Tuition and Fees, Higher Education
5. Year Written: 2014
6. Pages: N/A
7. Website URL:
https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sageedecfnan/tuition_and_fees_higher_education/0

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuition and fees, and	“Tuition, or more precisely tuition and fees, are the posted prices that academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• College costs differ for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is relevant to my assignment because the reader must understand certain

college costs have different definitions	institutions charge students to attend their institutions. College costs include tuition and fees, as well as average cost charged to students for dining, housing, books, and other incidental expenses”	that pay in-state tuition or live out of state. It also includes other factors. Tuition and fees refer to the tuition and other college fees that are already set.	vocabulary being used as they read in order to understand.

In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No___ provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? A bit outdated

Was it published in a reputable source? Yes, it is from an encyclopedia

Is it an academic source? Yes

Other important information : This source introduces a lot of essential vocabulary that will very likely be used throughout my research paper

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # __3__

__Course ENCOURSE NAME_EN202__Section_ON01__

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: N/A
2. Author's Credentials: N/A
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Scholarship America
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: The Far-Reaching Impact of the Student Debt Crisis
5. Year Written: 2019
6. Pages: N/A
7. Website URL:
<https://scholarshipamerica.org/blog/the-far-reaching-impact-of-the-student-debt-crisis/>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
Students that take out	"ProgressNow found that students with outstanding loan payments were 36	Despite all qualifications, graduate students tend to choose	This article relates to my assignment because

students	loan debt than anyone after graduating,”	too little to be able to cover all college costs -Students from families that earn around \$40,000-\$59,000 per year have 60% more debt than those who come from lower income families and 280% more debt from those in higher income families	
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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? Timely

Was it published in a reputable source? I believe so

Is it an academic source? No, it is a non-academic source

<p>student loans have suffering immensely after graduation</p>	<p>percent less likely to purchase a house, and other research indicates that ‘Those with student loan debt are also less likely to have taken out car loans.’ They have the worst credit scores.”</p>	<p>low-paying jobs so that they could start paying off their student loans in a timely manner. The survey also proved that these students who suffer from bad credit score because of college debt appear to be more likely to be living with their parents</p>	<p>it talks about the consequences of college debt and how the lives of the students are affected.</p>
<p>Student loan debt is a very serious matter that has gotten out of hand</p>	<p>“To say that student loan debt is a crisis is an understatement .”</p>	<p>-A decade ago, average debt was around \$17,000 -Last year, the average climbed to about \$30,000</p>	<p>This relates to my topic because it highlights the difference in debt from a decade ago to now</p>
<p>Middle class students suffer more than the lower class and higher class</p>	<p>“Nevertheless, we’ve learned that middle-class students actually shoulder more</p>	<p>-Middle-class student families’ earn too much to qualify for student id packages but</p>	<p>This relates to my assignment because it talks about those who are suffering more than others and just how much more they are suffering and why.</p>

Reading Notes to fill out when reading course and outside reading materials for assignment

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 5&6

Course: EN202

NAME: Trini Iguel

Section: ON01

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Dr. Michael P. Lillis & Dr. Robert D. Tian
2. Author's Credentials: Both Ph. D both received awards for published papers
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Journal of College Admission
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: *The Impact of Cost on College Choice*
5. Year Written: 2008
6. Pages: 14
7. Website URL: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ829466.pdf>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colleges are beginning to realize that students are more likely to be influenced by cost 	<p>“ colleges continue to find an increased need to emphasize affordability in their message to prospective students.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Finding reveal that students are more influenced by tuition and location -colleges continue to find an increased need to emphasize affordability in their message to prospective students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This literature is relevant because it addresses the belief that students are more compelled by affordability which relates to my research question asking if debt affects decision making
Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment

<p>Students are struggling with the rising tuition rates causing the rise of the need for more financial aid</p>	<p>“student financial aid continues to reach unprecedented levels, nearly doubling over the past decade and reaching almost \$135 billion by the end of 2006”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -students increasingly find themselves faced with an economic disadvantage, struggling to keep pace with this disturbing trend. -trends have elevated concerns that a college education is being priced beyond the means of low- and middle-income families -the disparity between the costs of an education and family disposable income continues to grow. 	
<p>The rising college prices are</p>	<p>“ According to St. John (2003) rising college</p>	<p>lower socio-economic status students tend to</p>	

discouraging students from middle and low-income families to attend college	prices have left low-income students with little choice but to take out loans, attend less expensive colleges or not attend college at all”	be constrained by their financial circumstances in that they attend less expensive institutions closer to their homes -students from low-income families are unable to pay high tuition prices so they choose to attend school with lower tuition rates	
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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? a bit outdated

Was it published in a reputable source? yes

Is it an academic source? Yes

Other important information : The study is unbiased and contains credible information.

Reading Notes to fill out when reading course and outside reading materials for assignment

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 7&8

Course: EN202

NAME: Trini Iguel

Section: ON01

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Christopher Avery & Sarah Turner
2. Author's Credentials:
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Journal of Economic Perspectives
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: Student Loans: Do College Students Borrow Too much-Or Not Enough?
5. Year Written: 2012
6. Pages: 27
7. Website URL:
<https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.26.1.165>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<p>Students are forced to take out student loans in order to pay for their college</p>	<p>“a combination of wage declines in entry-level jobs and increases in college tuition have placed many high school graduates in a no-win situation, pressuring them to take on unimaginable levels of financial risk in the form of student loans.”</p>	<p>-students are put into impossible situations with high tuition rates.</p> <p>-students are having a difficult time managing a job and school but even their job isn't even enough to pay for their education.</p> <p>-Students are leaving college with high amounts of debt and financial burden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is relevant to my assignment because it talks about how students are forced to take out students loans because of the high tuition rates and my assignment talks about the same issue
<p>Main Ideas/Points</p>	<p>Important Quotations</p>	<p>Supporting Details</p>	<p>Relevance to Your Assignment</p>
<p>Students</p>	<p>“student loans can potentially improve the efficiency of the</p>	<p>-with student loans, students don't worry as much as a</p>	<p>This will add a new view to my research paper because i'm mostly talking about the</p>

loans has its advantages	economy by raising the supply of college-educated workers in the labor market”	student about having to pay for their books or tuition fees, they concentrate more on their education -student loans can reduce both educational and income inequality among those in the same generation and between generations	disadvantages of student loans and debt
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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? A little outdated

Was it published in a reputable source? Yes

Is it an academic source? Yes

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleges are beginning to realize that students are more likely to be influenced by cost 	<p>“ colleges continue to find an increased need to emphasize affordability in their message to prospective students.”</p>	<p>-Finding reveal that students are more influenced by tuition and location</p> <p>-colleges continue to find an increased need to emphasize affordability in their message to prospective students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This literature is relevant because it addresses the belief that students are more compelled by affordability which relates to my research question asking if debt affects decision making
Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment

loans has its advantages	economy by raising the supply of college-educated workers in the labor market”	student about having to pay for their books or tuition fees, they concentrate more on their education -student loans can reduce both educational and income inequality among those in the same generation and between generations	disadvantages of student loans and debt
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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? A little outdated

Was it published in a reputable source? Yes

Is it an academic source? Yes

Links:

Cabrera, B., & Cabrera, B. (2018, August 12). 'Financial challenges no barrier to college'. Retrieved from <https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/financial-challenges-no-barrier-to-college/>

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College Debt Possibly Having an Impact on Future Life Decisions

Northern Marianas College

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Research Report

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Abstract

A current student studying at the Northern Marianas College described how college debt might impact a student's decision to attend college. The student researcher wishes to inform the reader about common factors that are shared amongst people who wish to attend college that might affect that decision. The researcher utilized various research methods in order to gain information. One important finding is that although students are grateful for the chance to take out student loans that will aid them during their time as a student, ultimately they struggle when the time for repayment comes, some even regret it. Students also consider other factors such as location and affordability when choosing a college.

Introduction

Everyone makes choices, some choices have huge impacts on a person's life and others have minimal impact. For example, choosing a restaurant for dinner would not be counted as a big decision to most people, but deciding if you want to go to college or not? Now that is what most people would call a life changing decision. To some, college can be very intimidating, not just because it takes time and commitment but mostly because it is very costly. Some high school students tend to hear or read about college debts and paying off student loans and the prospect may be scary to some people, especially those who come from low-income and working families. Some students might want to attend college but decide not to because of the high tuition rates and the expensive books, perhaps deciding that it is not affordable, even with scholarships. As far as the students that do decided to attend college and believe that it would be possible to go through the years of studying, financially, aside from being full-time students, most of the students would likely need to get jobs. This research paper will focus on the impact college debts have on future life decisions and why. Does college debt really have an impact on future life decisions? What factors influence the decision on what college to attend? The research will gather information through

various literatures, a survey, letters to experts, and a semi-structured interview in order to answer the questions at hand.

Background

College debts play a huge role in the decision making process of someone that is deciding whether or not they should attend college, it also plays a huge role with where a person should go to college. Some students do research and see the estimated amount that would need to spent at a certain college and immediately close the tab. For example, there have been many instances where students want to look at different colleges but when the “college costs” section comes up, a seemingly unreasonable amount of money comes up and the student will immediately close the tab deeming that college unaffordable. The research question is important because it pretty much affects the lives of everyone. Everyone has the choice to attend college or not, but for some, it could just be financially impossible. Another reason why it’s important is because almost everyone who plans to attend college, is currently attending college, or have graduated from college is struggling because of college debts.

Literature Review

College debt is something that seems to be very common these days. Does college debt have an impact on future life decisions? In order to answer the research question, the researcher has utilized various research methods. The researcher has also remained unbiased and has not included personal beliefs, that may have an impact on the credibility of the research paper. This literature review has analyzed eight literatures that highlight the topic of college debt. The first literature review that has been analyzed is an article called, “Tuition and Fees, Higher Education.” The second literature review that has been analyzed is on an article called, “Student Loans: Do Students Borrow Too Much-Or Not Enough?” The last literature review that has been analyzed is a study on, “The Impact of Cost on College Choice.”

There are many people that are unfamiliar with college terms that are often being used. According to Ehrenbreg (2014), tuition and fees and college costs have two different definitions. Tuition and fees refer to the posted costs of academic institutions, college costs on the other hand, also incorporates the tuition and fees in addition to dining, housing, books, and other expenses that may be accumulated throughout the year or semester. The costs of those that are residents of the state differ from those who are not, these charges are known as in-state tuition, for those who reside in the state, and out of state tuition, for those who reside out of state. In-state tuition is historically significantly lower than out of state tuition prices. Although tuition and fees and college costs are pricey, Erenbreg (2014) states, “Students often pay less than the posted level of tuition and fees because of the availability of grants aid provided by federal and state governments, the institution itself, and other private and public sources.” This literature relates to the research topic because it is essential that the reader understands the terms being used throughout the research paper.

Some, such as Avery & Turner (2012) state that, “a combination of wage declines in entry-level jobs and increases in college tuition have placed many high school graduates in a no-win situation, pressuring them to take on unimaginable levels of financial risk in the form of student loans.” Another issue that arises due to student loans is the choice of careers that a student might decide on. According to Avery & Turner (2012), evidence has proven that the burdens of student debt makes students less likely to choose a lower paying career, such as a teacher, compared to other careers that may generate more revenue. Students are more likely to choose jobs with a higher income, even if the job is not what was planned in order to pay off student loans. The annual amount of federal loans has increased from 10.5 million in 1980 to 17.6 billion in 2009, this is due to the fact that the overall undergraduate enrollment has also shown an increase throughout the years. Another issue that may come about is that students could sometimes misunderstand information and that could lead to possibly over-borrowing if the students over estimate the costs and in other situations, under-borrowing if the students do not avail to available borrowing

opportunities. This literature relates to the research topic because it discusses many issues that are going to be addressed in the research paper.

According to Lillis & Tian (2008), “colleges continue to find an increased need to emphasize affordability in their message to prospective students.” Lillie & Tian (2008) began a study on how the costs of college and financial support has an impact on the process of choosing a college. Using affordability as part of recruitment strategy has become popular to colleges, a survey conducted in 2002 actually proved that about 36% of institutions use that strategy. Average tuition and fees have continued moving at an increasingly steady pace throughout the years by 36 percent for private four- year colleges and 51% for public four year colleges. It is no surprise that higher education is priced beyond what low-income and middle-income families can afford and these students are faced with economic disadvantages. The study that was conducted proved that, not only students but parents as well, are influenced mostly by the tuition rates and the location of a college amongst other factors such as, available majors, academic reputation, the faculty, diversity, and so on. The reason as to why the students also considered location in their choice was because of the significantly lower commuter cost compared to colleges located at a greater distance.

Does College debt have an impact on future life decisions? The research question has been answered through various research methods. This literature review highlighted three different scholarly articles that have been found through Google Scholar and the Credo Reference Database. The first literature that was analyzed explained some of the terms that will be used throughout the research paper. The second literature that was analyzed was about whether or not students over-borrow or under-borrow when taking out student loans. Lastly, the researcher analyzed a study on tuition rates having an impact on the college a student might choose to attend. The literature will strengthen the research paper by assisting the reader in better understanding the terms that will be used and also by using credible literature and various other research methods to answer the research question at hand.

Methodology

Everyone makes choices, some choices have huge impacts on a person's life and others have minimal impact. For example, choosing a restaurant for dinner would not be counted as a big decision to most people, but deciding if you want to go to college or not? Now that is what most people would call a life changing decision. To some, college can be very intimidating, not just because it takes time and commitment, but mostly because it is very costly. Some high school students tend to hear or read about college debts and paying off student loans and that thought could be scary to some people, especially those who come from low-income and working families. Some students might want to attend college but decide not to because of the high tuition rates and expensive books, that might not be affordable, even with scholarships. As far as the students that do decided to go and believe that they would be able to make it through, aside from being a full-time student, most of them would likely need to get jobs. College debt has a very large impact in the decision making process in terms of going to college, this will be proven through various research methods such as, surveys, letters to experts, and a semi-structured interview

The first thing the researcher did was distribute a survey to a sample size of 38 NMC students. Through the shared google docs assignment, in class, the researcher distributed a survey highlighting issues in terms of factors that would have an impact on the decision to attend college. The researcher asked some demographic questions so that the collected data could be analyzed more accurately. A question about what factors might have an impact on the decision to attend college was also asked. Another question was about the current income of the student or the caregiver of the student and if that could also possibly be a factor. In order gain a better understanding, the researcher also asked the students if their decision to attend Northern Marianas College was their initial decision or if other factors influenced that. Another thing that the researcher wanted thoughts on was whether the students would be able to manage having a part-time job along with being a full-time college student. Lastly, the researcher asked if the students

believed that the financial aid would be enough to cover all college costs and how the students might feel about taking out a student loan. These questions were asked so that the researcher could gain statistics and have a better understanding as to why the students chose the Northern Marianas College and how big of an impact college debt had in that decision.

The second thing that had been done was the distribution of 10 letters to experts on and off-island. The researcher will write letters to consult with experts with this particular topic. Letters will be sent out to someone who has obtained their Master's Degree and someone who is in the process of obtaining the Master's degree. Letters will also be sent to someone who has obtained their Baccalaureates Degree and someone who is also in the process. A letter to a person who has obtained their Associate's degree will be sent out and a question asking why the person had decided not to continue will be asked. The researcher will also consult with a person who had the intention of attending college but could not and the reasons as to why. Other letters will be sent to people who work in the financial aid office, the board members of SHEFA, the director of the CNMI Scholarship Office, those in charge at FAFSA, and those in the Committee of Education. The researcher will send letters to these people because the experts on this field are those who have been through the system, those who are going through the system, those who appropriate the funds going into financial aid, and those who are at the head of the education system.

Lastly, the researcher conducted a semi-structured interview with a key informant that is also current student in the process of obtaining a Master's Degree. This interview will help the researcher to gain credible insight on the financial burdens that come with a Master's degree, and why the respondent decided further their education. The researcher will first gain background information on why the individual decided to attend college after high school and learn about the journey leading up until the day of the interview and the possible future plans of the individual. Next, the researcher will ask about the different scholarships that the respondent had applied for and if they were able to cover all costs. After, the researcher will if the student had a job while attending

college and if so, how did the individual handle all the responsibilities. Finally, a question about whether or not a student loan was taken out in order to further the education of the individual was involved, and if there was a loan, the researcher will ask about the repayment plan if the individual is comfortable with sharing that information.

People make life-changing decisions almost everyday, particularly the decision on whether or not to attend college or where to attend college. The idea of college could be very intimidating to a lot of people, not just because it takes a lot of time and commitment, but also because of the fact that it is very costly. The thought of taking out student loans and being in debt after graduation is something that a lot of people just can't afford. There are many many factors that could influence this decision. The research paper that will be written will prove that by analyzing data from a survey that has been distributed to students attending the Northern Marianas College, writing letters to those who are in charge of appropriating funds and to those who have experience with financial aid and college debt, and research that will be conducted through a semi-structured interview. These methods of gaining information will give the researcher the necessary data quality and experiences of others that will be needed to answer the research question. The researcher will have a better understanding in terms of why people choose not go to college or further their education, how funds are appropriated and why a specific amount is given, and what other information others are learning about in terms of college debt.

Findings

According to the survey that was distributed to 38 NMC students, a lot of the respondents chose NMC as their first choice of college because it is more affordable than four-year universities. The students were unsure of how they would be able to afford four-years universities but they did intend on transferring. Some factors that the students had considered when making the decision to attend their respective colleges were affordability, location, rent prices, and having to take out student loans. Another pattern that the researcher had noticed was that a a lot of the respondents

were also unsure about being able to work part-time while being a full-time students, some were concerned about having to manage the time, others were worried about not doing so well with academics due to the distractions that could possibly come with having a job, and another concern was the demanding workload. Those who were living independently mostly answered that they would not have a stable financial support system throughout their college years while those who were living dependently, who stated that their parents' income is not a factor, stated that they could possibly having a stable financial support system throughout their time as a college student. Many of the respondents expressed that student loans should be avoided and it would be the last source of revenue that would be utilized while others stated that they would have no problem with taking out loans.

Out of the 10 letters that had been sent out to those who have knowledge on college debt, the researcher had received 4 responses. Respondent number 1, Ann Marie Lassiter, (2019) had expressed gratitude for the loans and grants that had allowed the individual to study abroad without having to worry about room, board, and tuition payments. Ultimately, the Lassiter (2019) decided to move back to Saipan and attend NMC studying early childhood education. Because of the individual's GPA and field of study, incentives were granted that also helped along the way and with the FAFSA and local scholarships, the individual spent relatively nothing while attending NMC. Although Lassiter (2019) was grateful, currently the individual also feels regret for studying abroad in a field that held no passion because of the fact that the student loans that are currently being paid off ultimately served no purpose. The respondent stated, "Although I've learned, grown, and lived through so many humbling experiences while abroad, I am basically paying for a degree that I don't have." (Lassiter 2019). This issue is common, there are cases where students take out student loans without completing their degree and then the individuals are left to pay student loans that were not put to proper use. Respondent number 2, Thomas Manglona (2019), stated that taking out a student loans is something that should be avoided, the individual has applied for every scholarship, big or

small. Manglona (2019) is also a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, with the amount received from the Gates Millennium Scholarship, FAFSA, and all other local and state scholarships, the individual is able to attend UC Berkley without paying anything out of pocket. Respondent number 3, Tawnie Manibusan (2019), is currently attending a community college in Oregon. The individual works part-time but is having a difficult time managing the work-load. Manibusan (2019) currently receives enough to cover all college costs from local scholarships and FAFSA but the individual does plan to take out student loans when the time comes to transfer to a four-year university. Manibusan (2019) worries about the impact of the repayment plan impacting life after graduation. Respondent number 4, Susan Satur (2019), mentioned that it was a huge struggle having to repay the loans that had been taken out during college, the individual didn't qualify for scholarships but was awarded with several grants that took several years to pay off.

Future Plans

The researcher plans to share the research paper with other students and possibly create a table or graph that uses the findings that highlight factors that have an impact on the decision to attend college. Another way to share the findings would be to educate classmates, friends, and families about college debt and college costs and how it has affected others. Sharing these findings would not be considered a strenuous task because the topic is something that most people struggle with. The researcher knows this because it is something that has been observed in an everyday college setting.

Conclusion

Does college debt have an impact on future life decisions? This question was answered through various research methods. The researcher distributed a survey to a sample size of 38 NMC students, wrote 10 letters to experts, and conducted a semi-structured interview. On top of that, the researcher also did a literature review on various academic and non-academic literatures. Through the findings, the researcher is able to say that college costs, location, and possible financial burdens

play a huge role in the decision to attend college or what college a student might decide to attend. Many of the respondents had chose to attend NMC because of those the location and affordability. The researcher had also learned that students are concerned about having to find a job and how that will impact the quality of their academics. There were a few respondents that expressed their regret for taking out students loans and some individuals had also shared that having to repay the loans after graduation has been quite a burden. The information gathered in this study could be greatly beneficial for those who intend to attend college.

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