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Toulmin Outline

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Toulmin Outline: The most Important Class that Doesn’t Exist

Ethemyme/Argument:

Utah high schools should require coursework in computer science in order to qualify for graduation.

Reasons:

1. Utah has one of the highest demands for computer science majors in the country and it is growing, but there are not enough college graduates to fill the jobs.(“The Problem”)(“Salary and Career Info”)
2. Not a single state requires high school students to take computer sciences classes, and only a few allow them to take computer science to fulfill a core credit such as math or science.(Cameron)
3. Computer science majors have the highest average pay than any other major after graduation at Utah State University. (Watson)
4. This year there were more employers at the Utah State University STEM fair than there were computer science graduates.
5. 71 percent of Utah high schools do not offer computer science courses.

(“The Problem”)(Cameron)

Warrants:

1. If more class should be required then it’s assumed that more teachers will be needed to teach the classes thereby creating jobs.

* Only 29 percent of Utah high schools offer computer science courses, so it’s safe to assume that the other 71 percent don’t have computer science teachers, if they don’t have computer science courses.

1. If more people are taking computer science classes then more students will do computer science majors which will lead to more graduates and will fill the needed jobs.

* This one the backing is kind of in itself.

1. Eventually it will help the economy. More people with higher paying jobs will lead to people with more money putting that money back into the economy.

* People that have more money, spend more money which will boost the economy.

1. With more people in computer related fields, there will be more advances in technology which will lead to new jobs.

* That is how the cycle has happened in the past.

Grounds for rebuttal:

1. Most likely if more classes are needed than more equipment will be needed.

* While it’s true that computer science often requires specialized equipment and software, almost always the software can be obtained and used for free for educational purpose. Most schools will also have writing and computer labs which can be used for computer science.

1. If more of a focus is put on computer science there would have to be less focus elsewhere.  
   - Balancing the schools budget and time allocation is something can be very difficult. But with careful planning the pay offs will be better in the long run.
2. Computer science classes can be very difficult and often beyond the scope of high school students.   
   - On the contrary, computer science allows students to apply the math concepts that they are already required to learn. Also, there are areas of the United States where computer science classes are offered in K-5 levels and they seem to do just fine. (Lagos)

Works Cited

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Dan Watson. Personal interview.