**The Case of …**

Doubting in Denver

It was during the second week of classes that the questioning started. Until then, Jesse had been fairly confident in his decision to enroll at a college in the Denver suburbs to gain training to be a medical technician. He had been excited to try something new and to start a new career, but more and more he was wondering if he’d made the right choice.

To get to campus, Jesse had to take a 45-minute bus ride, because his wife needed the car to get to her office in downtown Denver. Jesse was also keeping his part-time job as an executive assistant at a doctor’s office, a job that meant another long commute. And on top of that, Jesse needed to find time among work, classes, and studying to help care for his five-year-old son.

Maybe, Jesse was beginning to think, college hadn’t been such a good idea. True, he could earn more money as a medical technician and begin a more promising career. But was it really worth all this added time and stress? Plus, Jesse had never done very well academically. Why would college be any different? If he wanted to make more money, he could just add more shifts at his current job.

Why bother with college? Jesse thought to himself. What an expense, and what a hassle. For what?

1. What arguments could you provide Jesse as to the value of a college education?

Although college does add more stress, the payout it gives when succeeding in college is not only good financially, but also good for yourself. The sense of accomplishment you get from graduating from college and being reminded of who you are doing it for, is a unique feeling.

The other argument is, you could make more money with Jesse’s current job by adding more shifts, but that prevents more time for your family and added extra stress anyway. If you compare the amount of pay and time Jesse gets from his current job, then compare it to the job he wants, he will make substantially more money for the same amount of time put into the job.

1. Do you think that Jesse’s doubts are common?

Yes. People commonly get in their own way when it comes to wanting to attend or currently attending college.

1. What might you suggest that Jesse do to help deal with his doubts about the value of college?

Find a motivator, either money, family, or himself.

1. Why might a student’s doubts about the value of college be especially strong during the beginning weeks of college?

It is a whole new experience, environment, or that they have not been in school in a long time which means they no longer have that academic mindset.

1. Do you share any of Jesse’s concerns about the value of a college education? Do you have additional ones?

I share the doubt of not being a good academically. I like to learn, and I am always learning new things. But I am not good at being in an academic setting.