

Fernando Interview Take 1

The subject of this article is to establish if going to school and or a university is the key to be successful or not anymore? The first person I'm going to interview is named Fernando or "Fer" for short. I would like to start off by saying this is HIS opinion and not everyone will agree with his lifestyle and or beliefs. I begin the interview process establishing the main topic of the following statement, "Do you believe you need to go to college to be successful?" Fernando answers right away clearly then says no. I already knew by then he didn't go to school after graduating high school but I still asked him "How come you feel that way, can you explain why that is?" He proceeds to explain how he grew up struggling with test taking and in general with school and he states how he has always never really enjoyed school and felt it pushed him back to his potential. Fernando continues to express how he was always a good worker and the type of the person that works by hand and not by the books or papers.

I continue with the interview by asking Fernando, what does he do for a living and would he do things differently? He answers, "I currently work for my fathers roofing company, I started working really young. I believe I was a sophomore in high school when I started working for him, I loved the money and ever since then have stuck around. If I want to do things differently? Probably not, it happened for a reason and it is something I'm good at and there's always room for growth and opportunity in the field I'm in and I didn't need to go to school for it. Actually right now I'm studying for my roofing license so that way I can do commercial roofing.

When he told me about how he doesn't regret doing things differently this made me happy for him because he has a plan regardless if he doesn't go to school or not and he is motivated to continue growing in that field. One final question I had for him was did he feel pressured to go to school and get a degree by his family or felt ashamed in a way since he chose the labor path? Fernando's demeanor changed when I asked him question he did look sad opened up by saying he does wish his parents were more supportive by his choices, he continued to say that his parents came to this country for better opportunities and especially for their kids, he admits he is a first generation of an immigrant family and that his family and many others in the latino culture have this idea of the "American Dream" they shouldn't expect the kids to have. He feels proud of himself and would not change a thing for the choices he has made that brought him there. I told him that I was proud of him to by living his own dream and thanked him for a touching interview.

Jazmin Interview Take 2

The second person I interviewed for my topic is someone close to me, she is my mom, Jazmin. To give a little background on her situation, she came to this country when she was a teenager and she came from Mexico and came to this country not knowing how to speak english. She graduated high school but couldn't go to college because of her circumstances of not being able to afford it and no government help in general. I have always known she wished her situation were to be different and always told me if she had the opportunities I have her life would've been different.

I started off the interview asking her, "Did you ever want to go to a college or university and if so what would you have wanted to study or to be?" She answered and said, "I did want to go to college but didn't think about it much because I did not have many options at the time, I had a lot of responsibilities when I was your age. Growing up your grandma always told me I would have been an amazing lawyer because of the way I argued hahaha. It would have been nice to get a degree and would've helped a lot along the way." I know my mom had to build her resume and had to work her way up from not having a degree however I didn't know how difficult it must've been for her. She realized along the way how cruel the workforce is and how easily something can be taken away from her. When COVID happened it was a struggle for everyone, people were losing jobs left and right and nobody was working, within a few weeks of the pandemic my mom's job decided to let her go and she was there for years and they were a wealthy company and she did their sheets and such on the computer and the reason they let her go was because at first they cut her money in half and the finally they didn't want to pay the labor when they were actually fine financially and just wanted to be a stingy company, besides the point.

My mom had no income, no government help(her legal status) and no degree. I asked her,"After that happened how did you feel and is it worth having an education to get you by?" My mother responded with, "It sucked starting over with another job but I was fortunate to find a better company that valued me and within a couple years have given me a good salary for someone earning a degree. I feel I am one of the lucky ones that was fortunate to find stability and getting paid for my work ethic and my years of reliability but many companies look past you if you don't have the credentials of a degree, I would've taken an opportunity of going to school if it was given to me just because of would've saved me many years of being overlooked.

Tatyana Interview Take 3

The third and final person I am interviewing is my good friend Tatyana. Just to give a short background we have been friends since elementary school. She has always been a good friend to me over the years and we have quite literally watched each other grow up to adults. I chose to interview her because I know she is someone a lot of people can relate to and that can understand her point of view.

My first question I asked her was, "Taty, what did you want to do after high school?", She answered, "I knew I did not want to go to a big university right away if I was not sure what I wanted to do yet, I went to community to figure it out but I had a lot of ideas what I wanted to be I just was trying to give it time to see my final decision." I could relate to her 100% on that and I know a lot of people took that route and are not seeing community college as a bad option anymore, many are now praising community first. I went to community college first to save money for my gen eds because in my mind why would I pay hundreds of thousands of dollars on the same gen ed's where a community college can do the same for much less money. With that being said Tatyana agreed with me but more so for the reason of wanting to figure out what she wanted.

I asked her, "Did you feel pressured to figure out what you wanted to do after high school?" She answers, "Yes, 100%. I was 17 getting out of high school and that is a lot of pressure at that age like you don't even know what you wanna eat for dinner let alone figuring out what you want to do for your entire life." When she said her statement I felt I was in the exact same situation where all this pressure of going to school no matter what was the only option. I continued with a final question and I asked, "What did you do after high school and how have you been and do you believe you need to go to college/university to be successful?" I gave her too many questions at once but she responded happily saying, "After high school I went to community college for a year to figure it out, I left and took the year off to work and I realized along the way I have always been good at makeup, hair and beauty in general but I was really good at styling hair and I took the risk of going to barber school and I am really happy with where I am going. I am excited for this opportunity of doing something I enjoyed doing and it may not have been a traditional route more than others but if it makes me happy who cares. Also, you don't need to go to a university to be successful, success can come in all kinds of ways and I found my way on my terms."