

Topic Proposal

The topic I am proposing to talk about is do you have to go to college to be successful? This topic is significant for me right now due to the fact personally I am 50/50 on this issue at hand just because of personal experiences. Let's say it is your senior year and everyone keeps asking you what are you going to do or the question asked the most is what school are you going to go to? At 17 and 18 years old it is proven your brain is not fully developed till you are 25, so imagine someone telling you that you have to choose something right away and make you think you need to go to school and figure it out from there to set your life. I took the route of going to community college then going to Columbia to finish my bachelor's degree and in all honesty I do wish for a different outcome and I know a lot of people that do regret as well since some went to a university right away and either burned out or ended up having a degree they did not want or made absolutely no money and ended up with a huge amount of debt. This generation is evolving and so should the mentality of "The American Dream." For those that do not know, the American Dream means "ideal that the United States is a land of opportunity that allows the possibility of upward mobility, freedom, and equality for people of all classes who work hard and have the will to succeed." However things are very different now and the so-called American Dream feels very out of reach.

As I mentioned before, expressing how the generation is evolving is because of social media since it plays a huge part in our lives whether or not if we let it do so. An example would be Tiktok or Instagram, there are people making content or doing things such as brands and are building their own brands and using their fame and popularity to expand what they want to do. A good example is a Tik Toker named Santea, he started off working at Home Depot and started posting his own content on the app and from there blew up and since then he has started his own clothing brand, does brand deals and even brought his friends up with him and they ended up blowing up too and now they all do their own YouTube channels and get millions of views. I chose this person as an example because he came from a small town in Texas and he is a first generation of an immigrant family and he ended up dropping out of college to pursue his dreams of being successful in his own way which ended up paying off. Now he has given back to many ESPECIALLY to his parents which he has bought them a home, cars and ended up fixing their citizenship status.

For this topic I will be interviewing my boyfriend, Fernando. He chose the labor route and does roofing for his dad's business. Next is my mom Jazmin who came to this country when she was young and started from the bottom and worked her way up to a salary based job without a degree to her name. Finally my good friend Taty, she originally went to community then figured out that is not what she wants to do and is now in barber school to learn how to be a barber. I will be conducting the interviews with them and the reason I chose these three is because I value their opinion a lot and not only that I feel that they all have this open mindset and are not those type of people that are close minded, they are the most intelligent people I know. I also know for a fact that they will give me three different opinions and instead of all of them saying the same thing.

Can you be successful without going to school is something I am going to keep researching and digging for all of the other possibilities. By the end of the semester I hope to

learn more about the people's opinion and how they truly feel and not what the older generation has taught them. I am hoping I can convince to change people's mindset on how you can have a great life without the pressure to believe you have to go to school to do so. Success can mean many things and it doesn't necessarily mean you have to do it the "traditional" way to get there.