

So last year I worked with one of my professors in a research apprentice program. **RAP for short. I could rap here, but I know my place.** The core of our work was analyzing wireless communications utilizing viacom technologies at varying frequencies. **Whatever that means.** During one of our rap sessions, my professor was telling me how lucky we were to not be restricted by our source of money. **As if money had the ability to restrict basic needs and dictate our daily decisions. Desperate for both answers and a way to introduce my first source,** I turned to **The Washington Post of August 10th, 2015.** It pointed out countless corporations have been using college research programs as an opportunity for positive marketing. By giving schools research grants, a company has the power to influence the outcome of those studies. **It's called** funding bias, and **Law Street on May 31st, 2015** argues it is destroying the integrity of college research. So problems, causes, and solutions: a program, **because those three main points made the most sense.**

But Kevin, I'm not a researcher, why does this affect me? Great question slightly less attractive me, it matters because research seeks to improve our daily lives. **Where would we be without the internet, modern**

medicine, or cell phones? Probably Wyoming. So problems: school reputation, and dishonest research.

First, these corporate grants are damaging school reputations. Take the University of Florida. Just last year, they accepted a 25,000 dollar grant from the Monsanto, or Multinational Organization of Nutritional Seeds and NOT TYRANNICAL OVERLORDS. Monsanto loves their GMO's, and now, so do the gators. And the University of Florida. **Forbes on September 10th, 2015** furthers, the school came under heavy fire *pew pew* after lying about the funding. All the while, they started releasing papers praising the potential of GMO's. But published under the name of a university, the study gains undue credibility. Unless it's the University of Wyoming, which is the LEAST OG UW school. Whether you support GMO's or not, no company should be able to influence the organic, unbiased research process at any university. This hurts Florida's reputation, and considering it's Florida, that's saying something.

Second, the studies coming out of this funding are more biased than a researcher researching the sex appeal of researchers. Not that I'd know anything about that. **The Higher Education Times of January 21st, 2016** did not approve of my study. But they did blow the cap off of Coca-Cola. In

the last five years, Coca-Cola has donated 16 and a half million dollars to universities around the country. 16 and a half million McChickens later, 28 nutritional studies were published... But not one of them mentioned the negative effects of soda on a healthy diet. Those researchers were implicitly biased to not bite the hand that literally- no, figuratively fed them. This limits scientific advancement, and no one wants that. And of course by no one I mean large corporations, pharmacies, and half of congress.

Speaking of congress, obviously global warming isn't real because Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe brought a snowball into congress once, single handedly disproving 97% of researchers who say otherwise. A revolutionary. And it's no wonder he's one of the men responsible for our causes: decreased state funding, and powerful corporations.

Initially, decreased funding is largely to blame for accepting biased grants. **The New York Times of June 22nd, 2016** points out the average state is spending 20% less on public colleges than they were a decade ago. As that funding disappears faster than my high school prom date... it's a joke guys, I didn't have one; research programs are quick to follow. Our education systems are becoming just like the students that attend them: broke, sad, and living off a diet that consists only of cheap beer and

Starburst. You know you've hit rock bottom when your dinner is a single yellow Starburst. They are figurative- no, literally the worst. Decreased state funding is the “yellow starburst” that is ruining our education.

Furthermore, at the core of biased research are some sneaky corporations. **Thomas Medvetz, a sociology professor at the University of California at Whale's Vagina (translated from San Diego)** explains businesses knowingly trade money for research that favors them. But quality research is founded upon being objective. **Imagine I'm the CEO of a powerful company called Shmarmaceutical. Now pretend I gave eleven researchers money to study the effectiveness of pharmaceuticals that are ineffective. Oh look, eleven studies praising my work! Amazing!** And also the true story of a company called GlaxoSmithKline. **Or as they're better known: GlaxoSmithKlinedOfGiantAssHoles.** For aspiring researchers, not only does this discourage them, but it sets a precedent. It ingrains the idea that biased science is just “the way it is”, which is literally AND figuratively the worst.

Now I know I've been bumming you guys out with problems, and causes, and Wyoming, but fortunately there are solutions. Not for

Wyoming, they're screwed, but for the other two. So solutions: upping state funding, and being picky consumers.

First, state legislatures must recognize the importance of funding higher education. I know I'm preaching to the choir here, but **The Huffington Post of September 2nd, 2016** points out public colleges are at the mercy of their state governments. Lovable leaders like Scott Walker and Matt Bevin have cut a combined 300 million dollars from Wisconsin and Kentucky ively. **I would say *respectively*, but I can't respect someone who probably hates puppies.** This isn't okay. Blow up their phone lines, **and then call them a lot.** Conduct a simple Google search to see if your state's public schools' funding is at risk, and if it is, do the same. Make your voice heard, and let them know just how important the integrity of our education is. **Do it for the puppies.**

Second, seek out companies that are genuinely transparent about who they are. Companies like Monsanto and Coca-Cola are making a direct effort to body slam research that would threaten their business. Instead of enabling this cycle, research who you're buying from to see how transparent they are. **Forbes of April 8th, 2016** released a list of the top

100 transparent companies. This included large corporations like Pepsi, Kohl's, and even Dollar Tree, or as I like to call it, home. I get you're all busier than Michael Flynn's attorneys, so I've put together a list of transparent companies to buy from. See me after the round and I'd be happy to give you one. Or don't. I'll remember.

Biased research grants only exist as long as we allow them to, and this needs to change. After exploring the problems, causes, and solutions, it's clear we have what it takes to use both our voice and wallets to show our support for unbiased higher education. We're standing on the campus of one of the greatest research institutions in the world. As someone who loves research, it makes me sad to see schools like the University of Florida subjected to this bias. We can do better. We need to prioritize the integrity of our education, because that's a grant we shouldn't turn down.