Memo

**TO:** Joe Griffin

**FROM:** Sadiq Abubakar

**DATE:** September 4, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Research Proposal

**TITLE:** “Student Debt: Why College Debt keeps rising in America”

**PURPOSE**

It is believed that without a college degree one cannot become successful in life. But is this true? What is the truth behind a myth? It is no doubt that America has some of the most prestigious universities in the world. They include Harvard, MIT, Yale, Stanford and many more. But the real question is how much one willing is to spend to get into these universities. One might be looking to spend at least $60,000 to $70,000 a year. That is indeed something to be shocked about. A student spends that kind of amount only to end up making $60,000 to $70,000 a year. The argument of this paper is: “is this really worth it?” Is this one of the reasons why the college debt in America keeps rising? We have grown up with the myth that only a college degree can help you in becoming successful in life. But that is not the case because getting into college requires a lot of money and resources. Students have never been in such a dilemma before. Nowadays students drop out of college because they feel they could not afford such expenses. Well many students could never imagine themselves in such situations. This leads to them doing odd jobs such as cab drivers, plumbing or carpentry jobs. The educational system in America is on the brink of Collapse. It was reported from the New York times that students in America owe up to 1.6 trillion dollars in loan debt.These are indeed high amounts and they keep rising. Are we setting up our future generations for an economic disaster? While the student’s debt increases each year, the outlook for future generations will continue to deteriorate. I’m specifically interest in answering the questions:

* Why does student debt keep rising in America?
* What are the consequences of rising debt?
* What measures are being taken to stop student debt from rising?

**BACKGROUND**

There are indeed many reasons why most college debts keep rising. They include the Location of the college, public or private university, the Field of study and reduction in state expenditures on the educational sectors. Firstly, the university location is one of the reasons why it is expensive. A university that is located in New York surely would be more expensive than the one that is located in Nebraska, because the high cost of living in such states are different. In New York the cost of living for a semester might be $15,000 per semester compared to Nebraska that cost a total of $7,000 per semester. The author utilizes logos by inserting statistics on the cost of attendance of several colleges. This is indeed a national disaster waiting to happen. Secondly, is the university private university or public university? It is believed that private universities are more expensive than public universities because they pay tax to the government and are usually owned by individuals. So, this makes them more expensive than public universities. Public universities are seeming affordable because they were made for state indigenes and because of the tax paid by indigenes they cost less compared to private universities.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

I feel this topic is important in education for two reasons. First, these reasons are enough to make colleges in America expensive but how do students pay for such services? They end up taking student loans with the hopes of paying them back after graduation. But things to do not always work out as planned. The author gives the audience the assumption that “If you rack up student loan debt, college is not worth it” Some students are lucky to find a job immediately after graduation while others are not. Due to not being able to get a job the student loans increase due to interest and keeps staking up, within 2 to 3 years you will be looking at an amount you never expected to reach so high. Secondly, this is more like a nightmare for students because what they planned to happen did not go as it should. So, what do these students do? Most students involve themselves in illegal businesses like drugs, online fraud and Bank robberies with the aim of paying back their loans. Most students drop out of universities and begin to work at grocery stores like Brums, Subways and many convenient stores.

**METHODOLOGY**

I will consult both primary and secondary source for this paper. I will mostly focus on the primary sources I have to write my paper because most of them carry reports and statistics carried plus, they are from a reliable source. I will also rely on secondary sources also. I am primarily using Encyclopedia Britannica as my research tool. It is a reliable and accurate source. I will also have a look at several websites as I try to summarize student loan debt in America.

**PROBLEMS AND COUNTERARGUMENTS**

I feel I will have to do a lot of research on this paper because it is not only discussing the past but the present also. This paper Analyzes the effects of student debt and the consequences. “Many self-made billionaires such as Mark Zuckerberg, Bill gates and many more have been pointing out at the detrimental effects of student loans and how they affect a student’s career.” Well colleges have never been seen as the way they are seen nowadays. I will have to read a lot of articles so as to have a better understanding of what the problem is and the measures being taken by the government.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

“Here's the Amount of Student Debt Owed by Every US State and DC, in Billions.” Microsoft News, 4 Oct. 2019, <https://blogs.msn.com/empoweringkids/heres-the-amount-of-student-debt-owed-by-every-us-state-and-dc-in-billions/>.

I feel this article is important for my research proposal because it gives statistics of the debt owned by students. It is also a credible source. I can assume this will be very beneficial for my article.

Laura. “8 Alternatives to Student Loans to Pay for College Debt Free.” The Thrifty Couple, 28 Mar. 2018, <https://thethriftycouple.com/8-alternatives-to-student-loans-to-pay-for-college-debt-free/>.

This article gives a clear summary of the possible alternatives for students to take to ensure they are free from college debts. There are possibly many alternatives for students to ensure they graduate college without debt.

Lake, Rebecca. “The Student Loan Debt Crisis Has Reached Epic Proportions.” The Balance, The Balance, 4 Mar. 2019, <https://www.thebalance.com/student-loan-debt-crisis-breakdown-4171739>.

This article is very important for my paper because it the effects of student debt on the lives of fellow Americans. It discusses the dangers caused by this and how the affects the lives of young Americans.

“Student Debt Part 2: A Brief History of Student Debt in United States.” OnlineColleges.net, 11 Feb. 2019, <https://www.onlinecolleges.net/student-debt-in-the-u-s-part-2-a-brief-history-of-student-debt-in-the-united-states/>.

This article goes further to give statistics which I could add to my paper. I feel this is very important for my readers to see. This will help strengthen my paper.

Ulbrich, Timothy R, and Loren M Kirk. “It's Time to Broaden the Conversation About the Student Debt Crisis Beyond Rising Tuition Costs.” American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, Aug. 2017,

This article will help my paper by including the reasons as to why colleges keep rising tuition fees. It will give the readers a proper explanation as to what are the main reason causes for this rises and what can be done.

Patrick B. Healey, founder and president of Caliber Financial Partners. “We Should All Be Concerned about the Student Debt Crisis.” CNBC, CNBC, 4 Nov. 2019, [www.cnbc.com/2019/11/04/we-should-all-be-concerned-about-the-student-debt-crisis.html](http://www.cnbc.com/2019/11/04/we-should-all-be-concerned-about-the-student-debt-crisis.html).

This article is more of a secondary resource to help add to my paper. I would need as many alternatives possible. So as to give my readers the possibilities to have many choices to choose from.

Carrns, Ann. “Two-Thirds of College Students Take On Debt, but Amount Is Rising More Slowly.” The New York Times, The New York Times, 27 Sept. 2019, [www.nytimes.com/2019/09/27/your-money/student-debt-what-to-do.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/27/your-money/student-debt-what-to-do.html).

This article will be very important for my paper because it discusses the history of student loan debt. It is also a reliable source because it was published by the New York times.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**

I want to complete this research paper as a way to enlighten my fellow classmates on the topic “Student Debt: Why College Debt keeps rising in America.” Even though I do not have student loans I can assume that student loans are a young person’s problem. This paper argues why college debts keep rising so as to enlighten the general public on the impending dangers. This paper gives a brief summary of the problems most American students face in their lives. It can be assumed that many students have decided not to further their educations after receiving a high school diploma, but I feel this is not the solution. I feel we need to have a better understanding of the problem so as to find a suitable solution.