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# The College Crossroads Revisited

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Segment Length: 2:19 minutes; 5:59 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Why Is Investing in Education Important?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUVckPKE6cQ>

“The College Scam”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4gLDXfXgbs>

## **Guide:**

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

## **Analysis Questions:**

1. The first video says education is increasingly important. How could Bryan Caplan explain the increasing importance of education in order to argue against more education?
2. Bryan Caplan calls college a scam, but those with a college degree have better jobs and higher salaries. How would Caplan address this fact?
3. The first video mentions that more educated people are in better health than those with less educational attainment. How might Bryan Caplan respond to this fact? Does this mean more education causes better health? Other than causation, why else might better educated people be healthier?
4. According to the first video, the public return on investment in education is triple the cost. Based on what he told John Stossel about standing at a concert, how could Bryan Caplan argue that investing in college for all Americans wouldn't be worthwhile?
5. Bryan Caplan claims that people could “start their lives earlier” if college were to become less accessible. How would he explain that?
6. The first video says a college education opens doors to job opportunities. Would Bryan Caplan disagree?
7. How does John Stossel explain the rise in tuition costs?
8. John Stossel says that when you subsidize education, you get more of it. What does this mean? Why would this be true?

9. The first video says education also comes with social benefits. What do you suppose this means?
10. Even if more education for all won't be financially worth it (As Bryan Caplan claims), doesn't education have other benefits? How could Bryan Caplan answer this?
11. What benefits of education does Bryan Caplan overlook?
12. What does Bryan Caplan mean when he says that a diploma is a signal?