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# The College Crossroads

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Segment Length: 3:51 minutes; 4:10 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Is College Worth It?”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t\\_N7MAr98CI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_N7MAr98CI)

“Vocational Schools vs. Higher Education”

See website: [https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both\\_sides/](https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both_sides/)

## **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. In the first video John Green mentions that tuition at a public university is less expensive for students who live in the same state as the university. Why are prices different depending on where a student is from?
2. John Green contends that a college degree generally pays for itself. What might Sandra Smith and John Stossel point out this argument assumes? Is that always a safe assumption for college graduates seeking a job?
3. Sandra Smith noted that workers in technical fields who decided not to attend college are proud of what they do. How does this comport with John Green’s comments about the non-economic benefits of attending college?
4. Based on the two videos, what considerations should a student take into account when deciding whether or not to attend college?
5. If there are plenty of jobs in America, as Sandra Smith reports, then why do many college graduates – who are ostensibly more qualified to work than their less educated peers – have trouble finding a job?
6. When analyzing the costs and benefits of attending college, John Green mentions opportunity cost. What is the opportunity cost of earning a four-year degree rather than pursuing a more technical education and career?
7. Is John Stossel saying that no one should attend college? If not, who should?

8. John Green says human life is about more than economics. What does he mean by this?