An Annotated Bibliography:

**The Benefits of a College Degree Do Not Outweigh the Cost of It**

Working thesis: “In other words, the benefits of a college degree does not outweigh the cost of it. Tuition has been inflating each year due to budget cuts, making college not affordable to the students and to their families.”


People who graduated with a college degree still questions whether college was a good investment for them. “Do the Benefits of College Still Outweigh the Costs?” addresses how students who graduated with a college degree are still unemployed and in debt. Furthermore, students have paid more to attend college and earning less upon graduation. This academic journal compares both the pros and cons of attending college. It contains graphs and illustrations that contribute more data about increasing tuition and how it affects your decision about whether to attend college. “The total costs to attend a 4-year college outweighs some people’s home value.” I thought this quote summarizes the academic journal very briefly.

“Do the Benefits of College Still Outweigh the Costs?” is a scholarly source and an academic journal. Since this is an academic journal this source was peer reviewed. The data in it is really reliable for my research paper. It contains graphs and illustrations
which could be used to make conclusions. This academic journal is more biased towards the people who believe that the benefits of college do not outweigh the costs. I could potentially use this source to support my thesis more efficiently. I could use this to provide more backing to my body paragraphs.


In this article Vicki E Alger discusses the high cost of college education in the U.S. and the means to make higher education financially accessible. The author asserted that the decades of government financial aid have done little to help and they caused the colleges to raise tuition much higher. The article focuses on more about how we could fix the inflation of tuition and how you could make reduce the years for a bachelor degree. However, the author still proposes the question about would the grants still outweighs the cost of a degree. How much can the government offer to a low-income family to make a 4-year university degree possible for them? To summarize the article, Vicki E Alger asserted that the inflation of tuition causes both student debt and government debt.

Vicki E Alger’s article is scholarly and is a reliable source for my research paper. Furthermore, it could be used for my introduction paragraph and my conclusion paragraph. This article contains arguments coming from both sides of my thesis statement. This helps me gather information to object against any counterarguments that I will receive. Overall this article contributes the most out of all my sources because of its data and counterarguments. It could be used as a springboard for me to argue with the author.
“Colleges New Tuition Crisis.” refers to the how colleges are hiking their tuition and other fees. In addition, it reports on how a college education costs are getting less public financial support. How colleges are being forced to cut costs by reducing the number of faculty members, increasing class sizes, and limiting enrollment; how tuition increases have reached double digits. The main thesis of this source is that rising costs and funding cuts are resegregating higher education, not by color but by class. Low-income students find it hard to pay for a degree.

This source contains very reliable information which could be used to provide some hardcore support for my thesis statement. Although this source is not very long, the main point it tries to reach across its reader is much related to my thesis statement. Low-income people are simply finding it hard to afford college. I could relate this to my working thesis statement about whether college is still worth it? This source differentiates between high income and low-income families and how much debt they will be in if they attended a four-year university.


This source is a book and it is about a hearing about a court case that deals with college being unaffordable to students and parents. It talks about the nation’s higher education is in crisis as a result of exploding costs increases that threaten to put college out of reach for low and middle-income students and families. Decades of cost increases,
in both good economic times and bad, have caused America’s higher education system to reach a crisis point. This was the defendant’s main point of view. He argued that the college tuition should be lowered and affordable for low-income families. This court hearing took place in 2004 and the defendant lost. Furthermore, this source addresses that if the rate of tuition increases at this rate, more than 2 million college-qualified students will miss out on the opportunity to go to college.

I believe this source contributes a lot of data and opinions. It is a biased document because this source is a court hearing from the defendant's point of view. In addition, I and the defendant are referring to almost the exact thesis. This only helps me to write more about my research paper. Moreover, it provides a huge amount of hardcore facts and data which could be used to support my paper. This book helps my thesis statement stronger than it already is. To conclude, this source is a really reliable and is a good source for my research paper. To analyze this article, Vicki E Alger covers the main points that I want to stress in my research paper.


Everyone wants to get a quality education, but when you research about where to go the price factor always crosses out of your options. “Increasing Tuition Affordability” talks about how why it is hard making college affordable and have a good quality education. Universities around the country are working in a challenging fiscal environment to find ways to make college affordable while increasing educational quality, outcomes, and accessibility. This article provides why in-state tuitions are rising the past decade. Some of the examples, including the decline in state support for higher
education, the need for a highly educated faculty, increasing mandates and expectations, universities’ ever-expanding missions, and technology. Along with giving us an explanation about why college costs so much it also proposes a plan to make it more affordable.

This article provides me with more data to support my working thesis statement. It gives me a detailed explanation about each cause of a skyrocketing tuition. It is a scholarly source and it is a very reliable source. Also, it could be used as a counter argument for my thesis. People could say tuition should be increased because of the decline in state support for higher education, the need for a highly educated faculty, increasing mandates and expectations, universities’ ever-expanding missions, and technology. People who object my thesis could say that due to these reasons colleges should raise their tuition. To sum it up this source can be viewed and adopted from both sides of my research question.


In “Is College Still Worth It?” Brian Kelly expressed to the readers of the U.S. News & World Report that college is more than we think it is. He proposed a question about whether it’s worth paying the money to get a college education. He described colleges as “If colleges were businesses, they would be ripe for hostile takeovers, complete with cost-cutting and painful reorganizations.” This source summarizes the increase in tuition for private and public institutions and compared a 4-year tuition to a price of an average median income person’s home. Furthermore, it mentions the different areas where our tuition is being dispersed. To sum it up Brian concluded that half of our
tuition is being spent on things we necessarily don’t really need or use in our 4 years at the institution.

To analyze this source, it talks about all certain aspects of my research question in two pages. It is a very short article, but the information it provides is at large. It is a scholarly source and it contains certain quotations which I think are very powerful. Although Brian proposed a different question than I did, both questions are connected. We have similar opinions about colleges and tuition. I would like to use this source for my conclusion paragraph and also in my introduction. I believe there are certain ideas in this article that would interest the people that are reading my paper.


CNBC’s “The Real Reasons a College Degree Costs so Much” explains why the tuition started increasing each school year. It throws back to the 1970’s and how Harvard decided to raise their tuition from 200 to 2,600. It relates the rate of tuition with the rate of inflation. The higher the rate of inflation is the higher the yearly cost of attendance will be. “"If you look at the long-term trend, [college tuition] has been rising almost six percent above the rate of inflation,” CNBC mentions how higher inflation in tuition increasing debts. Increasing debts cause a different kind of complications around a student’s life. CNBC analyzes the cost of living with the cost of a degree for two different eras. They came up to the conclusion that the price of a degree begins rising faster than the cost of other goods and services.

This source is a great option for my research paper because it has all the ideal answers to my research question. The thesis of the source was that cost of attendance
increased every year due to rise in the rate of inflation. I could use this as one of my main arguments while writing my research paper. The facts in this source could be used as a support for my thesis statement.


John Thelin’s article about “Why Did College Cost So Little?” talks about the increase in tuition over the decades. His analysis attempts to remedy that void by connecting past and present in looking at college tuition and other expenses from a century ago. The cost and price for college were so reasonable back then. Thelin compared how families reacted to inflation in tuition prices. In his article, he expressed the feelings of college students and their parents.

I believe this article is a good source for my research paper because it could be used as a support and for counterargument supports. John Thelin also talks about why colleges had to increase their tuition. This is an opposition to the people who wants to object my research question and my arguments. This source has both good and bad sides to it. From reading this article it previewed some of the oppositions from other people that I could expect.