

Team A Case -- Flow Sheet

Team A Arguments

Counter-Arguments

Rebuttal or Evaluation Arguments

College is currently unaffordable for many Americans, which is undemocratic.

Average cost of public college is \$30K. It's growing at 10X inflation. Most good jobs require a college degree, so not having access to college keeps low-income students out of equal opportunity.

1. Looking at the average cost of public college is deceptive. U. of Illinois at Urbana may be expensive, but there are free or very inexpensive options, e.g., Chicago State.

2. Currently financial aid for low-income students makes even the more expensive public colleges either free or very affordable. Currently \$20 billion per year goes to Pell Grants and other aid to students.

Our numbers are averages. The average is very unaffordable. Also, not everyone can or even should go to Chicago State or community colleges.

Financial aid is a good thing, but it isn't enough. \$20 billion sounds like a lot, but many students do not receive enough to make college affordable. It is also difficult to access for many.

Producing more college graduates improves the American economy.

College graduates earn about 5X what non-graduates earn. That helps the economy, as does their creativity and innovation that is cultivated by a college education.

1. There is currently a surplus of college graduates with certain degrees and in certain fields. In the current economy, a college degree doesn't guarantee a good job.

2. There are plenty of counter-examples -- people making a lot of money or a good living without a college degree. Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, are two examples -- also people who work in a family business.

This isn't true for many degrees -- e.g., engineering, nursing, IT -- and many industries are looking for talented and well-educated prospects.

These counter-examples are valid, but they are exceptions that prove the rule. And family businesses are a good thing too, but most people don't have this option. Even those who do often want another choice.