

## CLAIMS TO PROVE

**It's not necessary to get a four-year degree to get a great job.**

**College graduates get the best jobs.**

**It's okay to start over with a new career, even after you are in a career.**

**Choosing a major right away in college isn't necessary.**

<p>1. By the end of their first year, a quarter of all freshmen change their minds about their field of study (Selingo).</p>	<p>2. Here are the best-paying jobs you can get with no more than a high school diploma:</p> <p>1. Subway and street car operators</p> <p>-- Median annual income: \$62,730</p> <p>-- Total number of people employed: 8,750 (Frohlich)</p>	<p>3. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 25 percent of college graduates are currently in jobs that do not require a college degree (Kasdin).</p>
<p>4. The average worker today stays at each of his or her jobs for 4.4 years, according to the most recent available data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but the expected tenure of the workforce's youngest employees is about half that (Meister).</p>	<p>5. "A dramatic increase in the number of Americans with college credentials is absolutely essential for our economic, social and cultural development as a country," Jamie Merisotis of the Lumina Foundation says (Sanchez).</p>	<p>6. A survey conducted by New York University's School of Continuing and Professional Studies in 2006 showed that New York professionals – a rarefied group, admittedly, but not necessarily atypical – expected, on average, to change careers three times in their lifetimes, and only 28 percent expected lifelong careers (Alboher).</p>
<p>7. The 1.7 million college seniors about to graduate this year can expect an increase in job opportunities as businesses will likely ramp up hiring for entry-level positions this year, according to a new report by global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray &amp; Christmas (Safdar).</p>	<p>8. David Muir is an anchor and correspondent for ABC World News.</p> <p>He works with plenty of people who do not have journalism degrees. The commonality among them, he says, is that "we all majored in what we were interested in. The curiosity and the willingness to adapt are more important than what the degree is in" (Selingo).</p>	<p>9. Linda Lee, in her book writes, "Here is who belongs in college: the high-achieving student who is interested in learning for learning's sake, those who intend to become schoolteachers, and those young people who seem certain to go on to advanced degrees in law, medicine, architecture, engineering, and the like. Here is who actually goes to college: everyone" (Kasdin).</p>
<p>10. If you think about all the information on your résumé—your relevant work experiences or internships, your extracurricular activities, your volunteer work, your GPA, etc.—your major is just one small data point," says Kaplan (Karol).</p>	<p>11. It is true that college graduates generally earn more over the course of their lives than those without diplomas. But our materialistic culture has pushed our youth into what can be for some an agonizing four-year ordeal that can, in the long run, lead to failure anyway. For those who don't love to learn, going to college is simply about earning potential. But even that is likely to change (Kasdin).</p>	<p>12. Recent grads with a bachelor's degree and less than three years' experience in the workforce typically earn \$39,700 a year—but that number can more than double for those in positions in science, technology, engineering, and math (Smith).</p>

13. Employers are planning to hire 10 percent more spring graduates this year compared to 2011, according to a recent survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (Safdar).	14. We are living longer and working longer, too, giving us a larger canvas to paint our work/life dreams. We also realize that life is short, so we want to feel good about the work we're doing. And we're determined to meet that goal while still paying the mortgage (Alboher).	15. Of the job categories that earned a median of at least \$60,000 in 2012, just a handful did not require at least some college education. The top-paying job categories all required a bachelor's degree, and in many cases, a master's or doctoral degree (Frohlich).
16. There are plenty of career paths that aren't solely reserved for degree-holders, and they often pay just as well as jobs that do demand a diploma. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a growth rate of 11 percent or higher for each of these jobs that don't require a college degree (Fallon).	17. "For more entry-level positions, having the suggested major listed on the job posting is more relevant, and is definitely one of the top criteria I'm looking for," says Caleb Leiker, hiring manager for TheLadders, an online job-matching service for professionals (Karol).	18. The top paying STEM job for recent grads: Petroleum engineer. The median pay for those with three years' experience or less in this field is \$88,700 (Smith).
19. "If you're applying to an engineering job, then yes, an engineering major is going to have the competitive edge," says Suki Shah, CEO of GetHired.com, a hiring solutions service for businesses. "But for other industries and positions, it's much less important." A liberal arts degree, for example, can be applicable for a variety of jobs. One aspect of what you'll want to stress is how your particular major taught you to think and problem-solve (Karol).	20. A 2012 survey by Net Impact found that 88 percent of workers considered "positive culture" important or essential to their dream job, and 86 percent said the same for work they found "interesting." Job-hopping helps workers reach both of these goals, because it means trying out a variety of roles and workplaces while learning new skills along the way (Meister).	21. For some students, the major serves as a path to a specific career or profession. For other students, the major represents a way to dig into a passionate academic interest. At a liberal arts institution such as the University of Chicago, your major does not necessarily equal your career path.
22. Nine in 10 college students say it is important to find a major that is interesting "no matter how practical it is," according to a survey conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles (Selingo).	23. Half of young college graduates are either unemployed or underemployed, according to the Associated Press (Safdar).	24. Since humans have been proven to be terrible at predicting what will make us happy (as shown by Harvard happiness guru Daniel Gilbert), it's crucial that we find it through trial-and-error (Meister).

<p>25. According to the <u>Labor Department</u>, “the average person born in the later years of the baby boom held 10.5 jobs from age 18 to 40.” In 2006, the most recent year for which there are statistics, 54 million Americans, or 40 percent of the work force, left their jobs (Alboher).</p>	<p>26. The most common complaints from graduates were poor job security, poor pay and job content. To help the growing problem, a new report suggests people may want to rethink the model of higher education, particularly since access to higher education has increased in recent years while the number of jobs for those workers has not (Mielach).</p>	<p>27. For years, experts have warned that recruiters screen out chronic job-hoppers, instead seeking prospective employees who seem to offer longevity (Meister).</p>
<p>28. Many education experts believe: Jobs, now more than ever, will require at least a two-year degree. "What I like about the president's plan is that it recognizes that not everybody needs a bachelor's degree," Jamie Merisotis of the Lumina Foundation says. "Some people need an associate degree; some need a certificate or credential that will allow them to be successful in the work force" (Sanchez).</p>		<p>29. The Harvard Graduate School of Education released a report called “Pathways to Prosperity.” The report noted that of the 47 million American jobs expected to be created between now and 2018, about two-thirds will require some sort of education beyond high school, yet a much smaller proportion will require a four-year college degree. About 14 million of these new jobs will be in “mid-skill” occupations that require just a post-secondary certificate or associate’s degree: jobs such as dental hygienist, construction manager and electrician. Such occupations can provide a path into the middle class; indeed, 27 percent of workers with occupational licenses earn more than the average recipient of a bachelor’s degree.</p>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

## Choosing *The Best* Evidence to Prove a Claim

**Directions:** In the space below, list the evidence numbers you would use to support each claim. Then, write your *commentary*. What, about each piece of evidence, proves the claim?

**Claim #1** \_\_\_\_\_

Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

This is important because \_\_\_\_\_

Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

This is important because \_\_\_\_\_

Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

This is important because \_\_\_\_\_

**Claim #2** \_\_\_\_\_

Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

This is important because \_\_\_\_\_

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Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

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Claim #3 \_\_\_\_\_

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Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

This is important because \_\_\_\_\_

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Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

This is important because \_\_\_\_\_

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Best Evidence # \_\_\_\_\_

This is important because \_\_\_\_\_

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Now, please respond to the following ***IN YOUR MEAD in paragraph form.***

Response questions:

1. What new thinking do you have about the topics of your reading?
2. What was your procedure for determining the best pieces of evidence?
3. What new thinking do you have about choosing *best* evidence?

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