



I DON'T WANT TO GO TO UNIVERSITY!

A TALKING POINTS LESSON FOR ENGLISH
READING & SPEAKING

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
I Don't Want To Go To University!.....	4
Reading Comprehension Questions.....	7
Essential Vocabulary.....	8
Discussion Questions.....	9
Credits.....	11

Introduction

Do you want to go to university? Why/why not?

Do your parents want you to go to university?

What if you told them you do not wish to go?

I Don't Want To Go To University!

In the last twenty years, going to university has no longer been a choice but an obligation.

Many young people believe that if they don't go to university, they cannot get a good job — or any job at all come to that. This is made all the worse by employers making serious demands of young job hunters.

HR departments insist on all employees being a college graduate in possession of at least one degree, some expecting applicants to have a Master's degree too.

Is it reasonable to make these demands of young people?

They often graduate from college saddled with a huge debt — one they may not pay off for many, many years.

Is this any way to start adult life?

Because of this, many young people are now turning their back on college. They regard it as a vast expense that could be unnecessary.

For many school leavers, they are now choosing to say no to university and create their own path in life without getting a degree.

Then there are the kinds of things students are expected to learn at university.

It is no longer a place where a student simply gains knowledge and learns of different opinions and ideas.

College used to be the place that challenged a person's thinking.

Nowadays, students are expected to conform to certain ideologies that the college promotes.

This has been met with much cheering from many of the students. But some have decided that this style of thinking is not needed in a college environment.

On top of this, for the last twenty years or so, students have access to one of the most incredible libraries of information the world has ever known — **the Internet.**

Why bother going to an expensive college with no guarantee of a job when you can learn pretty much any skill you want online?

There is a ton of free information available to all students, teaching them anything they want to learn — ***from languages to computer programming to website design.***

A two-minute search on Google or YouTube can bring up thousands of resources.

And if you can't find what you're looking for, there are now thousands of online accredited courses offered by top universities.

Many of these courses are completely free of charge.

Before the Internet, people looked down on these kinds of classes — they were known as correspondence courses and regarded as inferior to real college classes.

But not anymore.

With all this free information available, younger people are now seeing the opportunity to learn useful skills off the university campus.

The chance to learn skills without having to spend three or four years at college. Plus, doing it at a very reasonable fee in their own time.

This could be a real wake-up call for many colleges as more and more students take this route.

In the future, young people may graduate via Google or YouTube.

Where does this leave the universities and colleges?

Reading Comprehension Questions

University has been an obligation for the last ten years. True or false?

Do young people believe they can get a good job without going to university?

Do employers expect young people to have a college degree?

What qualifications do HR departments expect of young people?

Do college graduates have a big debt?

Are some young people rejecting college these days?

In the past, was college the kind of place that challenged a person's thinking?

What is the huge library of information that young people can use today?

Can young people learn any skill from this resource?

What are many top universities offering online these days?

Do these courses cost money? Or are they free?

How did people regard these courses in the past?

What two online platforms does the article mention?

Essential Vocabulary

obligation	made all the worse	serious demands
job hunters	HR department	employees
college graduate	in possession of	degree
applicants	reasonable	saddled with
debt	to pay off	to turn your back on
vast	expense	own path
to challenge	nowadays	to conform
ideologies	to promote	cheering
environment	access	incredible
no guarantee	skill	ton
computer programming	website design	resources
accredited	correspondence course	inferior
campus	wake-up call	route

Exercise

Write down all the words and phrases in your vocabulary notebook. Look in your dictionary and find the meaning of each word. Write the definition next to each word.

Then make up your own sentences using each word or phrase.

For example:

Notebook—*a small book with pages of blank paper that students use to make notes when studying.*

“I left my notebook at home so I was unable to make any notes in my English class.”

Discussion Questions

What do you think about students deciding not to go to university? Is this a good idea? Or a huge risk?

Is university too expensive in your country? Why is it so?

Should university be free for everyone? Justify your claims and explain them to the class.

Is university a place to have your ideas and thoughts challenged? Or a place where we all share the same thinking? Tell the class what your views are on this.

Should employers demand that all job applicants hold a degree? What jobs require a degree? What jobs require no degree?

What incentives can colleges offer students to attend their classes?

Can young people really learn any kind of skill or knowledge online? How can they?

What kind of things can only be learned in a college environment?

Have any of you attended college? Or attending college? What do you like about it? What do you hate about it?

Are college teachers doing a good enough job teaching younger people? Explain your reasons to the class.

Credits

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