

# **Powerful Voices Converse about College**

## **Writing Prompt**

Enter a human condition conversation! The goal of the researched argument is to synthesize several sources' voices with yours to show an issue's importance while arguing your stance. Your topic must relate to some aspect of college — issues related to pre-admissions, college life, academics, post college graduation etc. (see potential topics on back of this sheet) — and must include six sources. As part of those six sources, you must incorporate either a research study from a college or other esteemed institution, or you must use two publications from a college/university press. In other words, you must include college-level research in your sources.

Employing syllogism with both inductive and deductive reasoning and enhancing your thesis with research, explain why your chosen topic is important. What actions do you want your audience or others to take? Engage your sources in a conversation about the topic and ask your audience to think through the situation you present.

Read the rubric so you understand the expectations for this major paper. Note the changes and additions in the process box.

### **Prewriting**

Required — If you do not do the prewriting, you will earn a zero for the entire paper grade. See the Prewriting sheet in your Writing Resources booklet for directions.

#### **Prewriting 1 — Interview or Observation**

#### **Prewriting 2 — Note taking**

You must complete note taking by \_\_\_\_\_. On that date you will show your note cards to Mrs. Lawson who will okay and initial here.

## Potential Topics:

### Remember to make these into arguments!

Choose one of these or use these as inspiration to develop your own topic.

- 1) What are reasons to attend college?
- 2) What is a "college community" or "community of learning" and why are they important?
- 3) What are the benefits and negatives of state universities?
- 4) What are the benefits and negatives of private colleges and/or universities?
- 5) What are liberal arts colleges: Benefits? Negatives?
- 6) Religion-affiliated colleges: what are their benefits, negatives, purposes?
- 7) What are research universities: are they effective choices for undergraduate programs? Or are these more focused on graduate programs?
- 8) Determining a major: Should students declare even if they are uncertain? Is changing a major okay?
- 9) Are double majors a wise choice or too much?
- 10) Is having a minor important?
- 11) What should students know about funding: scholarships, financial aid, loans, work study versus work grant? (The College Board has some info on this).
- 12) Is graduating with a bachelor's degree in four years still possible?
- 13) What are the benefits of AP courses? (College Board has info,)
- 14) Are the SAT and ACT necessary? Why are these such a major part of applying to college?
- 15) College applications: myths and realities?
- 16) How much of oneself or one's "true" self should one reveal in a college application?
- 17) What should students and parents know about campus life: living on campus versus living with parents versus living in rental housing?
- 18) Besides higher salaries than many non-degree positions, what are other career benefits garnered from possessing a college degree?
- 19) What is hazing? What are the hazards? Why does it still occur?
- 20) What are helicopter parents, and how do they affect their children once in college?
- 21) What are the circumstances involving college students and credit card debt?
- 22) Why is binge drinking a problem on college campuses? How are universities dealing with it?
- 23) What do students whose parents did not attend college need to know? How are their college experiences different from second, third, fourth, generation college students?
- 24) What do students need to know about roommates?
- 25) What extracurricular activities are available in college? Do they differ from high school activities? How so?
- 26) What are the truths and myths about college course loads (potentially in comparison to high school)?
- 27) What are all the components to Greek life?
- 28) What are other "live-in" societies like?
- 29) Should children follow their parents' legacies (college attended, Greek affiliation etc.)?
- 30) How do students choose colleges that make the "best fit"?
- 31) What should students know about transferring between colleges: benefits, negatives?
- 32) How has Title IX affected college choices and college admissions for girls?
- 33) Does having a sports program affect the college's academics? How so?
- 34) Why do colleges and universities fight so hard to have football teams?
- 35) Why does the college one attended still matter long after graduation?