

## Writing a two-sided argument essay

### Topic: The Cost of a Degree [example]

**Argument:** *Is a university degree worth the cost?*

**Type:** General

**Level:** \*\*\*\*[B1/B2]

### Lesson Aim

*To develop the students' ability to generate main ideas with support and write a two-sided argument essay.*

*3 types of lesson (writing x2 / reading x1).*

### 1. Writing

- Ask Students to discuss question: *Is a university degree worth the cost?*
- Write down the arguments in favour and in opposition.
- Feed in / check key vocabulary (see next page).

#### Free Writing #1:

1. Distribute **outline #1** (blank).
2. Students complete outline using ideas discussed previously.
3. Students write the essay using the completed outline.
4. Students compare their essay with the model essay.
5. Extra: Reading Exercise.

#### Guided Writing #2:

1. Distribute **outline#2** (completed with points).
2. Students write the essay using outline.
3. Students compare their essay with the model essay.

Marking student's work:

Use marking code: [www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction](http://www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction)

### 2. Reading

1. Distribute text and **outline #3** (blank).
2. Students read the essay and complete outline with key points and support.
3. Students check answers with **outline #4**.

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## Is a UK university degree worth the money?

C. Wilson (2017)

### Key vocabulary

1. Incredibly popular
2. College & university
3. An integral part of something
4. Necessity
5. Trebled
6. [REDACTED]
7. A graduate
8. Expertise
9. A career
10. A [REDACTED]
11. Networking
12. Critical thinking skills (analyse & evaluate)
13. Innovation / innovative
14. [REDACTED]
15. A production line (in a factory)
16. Individual attention
17. '[REDACTED]' [a phrase]
18. Guarantees
19. A swamped job market
20. [REDACTED]
21. Student loans / student debt
22. Redundant educational investment
23. Merits
24. To [REDACTED] [idiom]
25. Ranking

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## Is a UK university degree worth the money?

C. Wilson (2017)

University education in the U.K has become incredibly popular for young people with on average [redacted] students going on [redacted]. Such high numbers seem to suggest that a degree qualification has become a necessity in modern society [redacted] a future career. There [redacted] earn more money than those who have not been through a university education system. Nevertheless, the [redacted] of higher education [redacted] last three years and with such high numbers of students this has had an effect on the quality of [redacted] discuss the positives and negatives [redacted] degree and conclude that a university [redacted] but only with integrated vocational training.

A university degree is worth the money for a number of important reasons. The most significant is a bachelor's [redacted]. It presents employers with a highly educated and knowledgeable person in a specific area [redacted] it offers an [redacted] rather than just a job. Of course, certain professions such as doctors, lawyers and teachers [redacted] areas. Secondly, most young people state that the university experience is one of the best times of their lives. For many it is [redacted] and the first steps [redacted], but also the friendships, parties and networking are all enjoyable parts of university life. Finally, the university [redacted] on the development [redacted] skills help graduates to be innovative and creative in the workplace by being able analyse and [redacted]. In sum, university helps [redacted] to benefit society and employers.

Many critics argue that university [redacted] the amount of money it costs. The first argument is that universities have become too focused [redacted] than [redacted]. Some claim that universities now resemble production lines, similar to factories, where creativity [redacted] High numbers of students also mean lecturers cannot provide individual attention to students thus teaching to [redacted] second argument is there [redacted] when you graduate. In fact, with record numbers of students graduating, the job market has become swamped [redacted] have found work in their subject area. The biggest problem is that many graduates do not have [redacted] the need for [redacted]. Lastly, the price of a degree and the debt that students occur are extremely high. For example, the [redacted] degree [redacted] and [redacted] expenses the average debt of a graduate (as of 2016). Such an excessive debt at 21 years old [redacted] and if the graduate [redacted] subject area quickly, then they have to take any job to start paying back the debt. This can result in [redacted]. Overall, a university course [redacted].

In conclusion, higher education has its merits through providing academic knowledge, educating a [redacted]. However, there is an element of uncertainty

regarding [REDACTED] and going into [REDACTED] is worth the initial investment because it opens more doors than other alternatives. There are a range of [REDACTED] discussed in this essay by choosing a university through quality of teaching ranking, choosing courses [REDACTED] and working part-time while at [REDACTED] the debt.

[ 633 Words]

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**Outline #1**

*Make notes using this outline to plan an essay on: Is a university degree worth the cost?*

<b>Introduction</b>	
General	
Specific	
Outline & Thesis	

<b>Positives - write your ideas and support</b>	
<b>1. Point / idea:</b> Support:	
<b>2. Point:</b> Support:	
<b>3. Point:</b> Support:	

<b>Negatives - write your ideas and support</b>	
<b>1. Point:</b> Support:	
<b>2. Point:</b> Support:	
<b>3. Point:</b> Support:	

<b>Conclusion</b>	
Summary	
Thesis	
Suggestions	

## Outline #2

Use these ideas to write a two-sided argument on: *Is a university degree worth the cost?*

Introduction	
General	University popular 1:3 college students.
Specific	A degree = good career & more money. Costs = trebled, [REDACTED], poor teaching.
Outline & Thesis	Positives & negatives. University degree is worth it but need [REDACTED] - experience.

Positives
<p>1. <b>High qualification.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employers want educated and knowledgeable person in a specific area of expertise.</li><li>• Graduate: a career than a job.</li><li>• Certain professions (doctors, lawyers and teachers) need qualifications.</li></ul>

**ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**

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### **Outline #3**

Read the essay on: *Is a university degree worth the cost?* Fill in the outline (*basic notes only*)

<b>Introduction</b>	
General	
Specific	
Outline & Thesis	

<b>Positives - find the main points and support</b>	
1. _____ • • •	
2. _____ • • •	
3. _____ • •	

<b>Negatives - find the main points and support</b>	
1. _____ • •	
2. _____ • • •	
3. _____ • • • •	

<b>Conclusion</b>	
Summary	
Thesis	
Suggestions	

**Outline #4: ANSWERS**

<b>Introduction</b>	
General	University is popular 1:3 college stds.
Specific	A degree is necessary for a good career and more money. Costs have trebled, [REDACTED] & poor teaching.
Outline & Thesis	Positives & negatives. University degree is [REDACTED] placement.

<b>Positives</b>
<b>1. High qualification.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employers: educated and knowledgeable person in a specific area of expertise.</li><li>• Graduate: a career rather than just a job.</li><li>• Certain professions (doctors, lawyers and teachers) need this qualification.</li></ul>

**ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**

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