

# Invest in Yourself: Classroom Lesson Plan

## Lesson Topic:

The Power of a College Education

## Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to describe factors that make a college education so valuable.

## Materials:

- Writing utensils
- **The True Value of College** worksheets, one per student
- Projector or other method to watch the video

## Advanced Preparation:

- Preview the video before sharing it with your students [2:12].
- Make copies of **The True Value of College**, one per student.

## Warm-up Activity:

1. Ask, “Why do you think a college education is important?”
2. Direct students to turn and talk to a partner. After a minute of discussion, bring the class back together and ask students to share their ideas.
3. Tell students that during this lesson, we will be looking at a variety of reasons it’s important to pursue a college education including some lesser known or “hidden” values of a college education.

### View the Video: "Invest in Yourself"

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "[Invest in Yourself](#)".
2. Explain that the video shares role models emphasizing the importance and power of investing in yourself through higher education.
3. View the video together and invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video. Students should be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

### Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions, and responses to the video.
2. Ask, "What reasons did the role models give for the importance of college?"
3. Allow students to briefly chat with a partner. Then bring the class together to discuss their ideas. Emphasize any reasons discussed in the video that were not mentioned during the Warm-up Activity.
4. Tell students that they will be working with a partner to interpret some graphs showing the value of a college education. *Note that **The True Value of College** can also be completed as a whole class activity depending on students' level and familiarity with graph interpretation.*
5. Divide students into partner pairs.
6. Distribute **The True Value of College**. Direct students to work with their partner to complete **The True Value of College**. Circulate to assist.
7. Review the answers to **The True Value of College** as a class.



8. Use some or all of the following questions to discuss the importance of college and close the lesson:
  - What are some reasons that it's important to consider a college education?
  - What "hidden" values of college did you learn today? Were any of these values surprising to you? Why or why not?
  - Do you think it is worth it to go to college but not graduate? Why or why not? Can you find evidence to support your idea using any of the graphs from **The True Value of College**?
  - How might someone's life be different if they decide to attend college? Use evidence from the graphs in **The True Value of College** to support your ideas.
  - Why would a college education be valuable for you?
9. Close the lesson by encouraging students to discuss the importance of college and investing in themselves with their family and friends.



### Extension Activities:

1. Encourage students to interview friends, family members, or other community role models that have attended college. Students should create a list of relevant questions, schedule interviews, and summarize their findings in a report, poster, or video.
2. Students can create "My College Options" books by researching majors, programs, or specific colleges that they are interested in. These books can be used to set goals or explore options they hadn't previously considered.
3. Use the "Related Questions to Explore" as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore the value of investing in themselves.

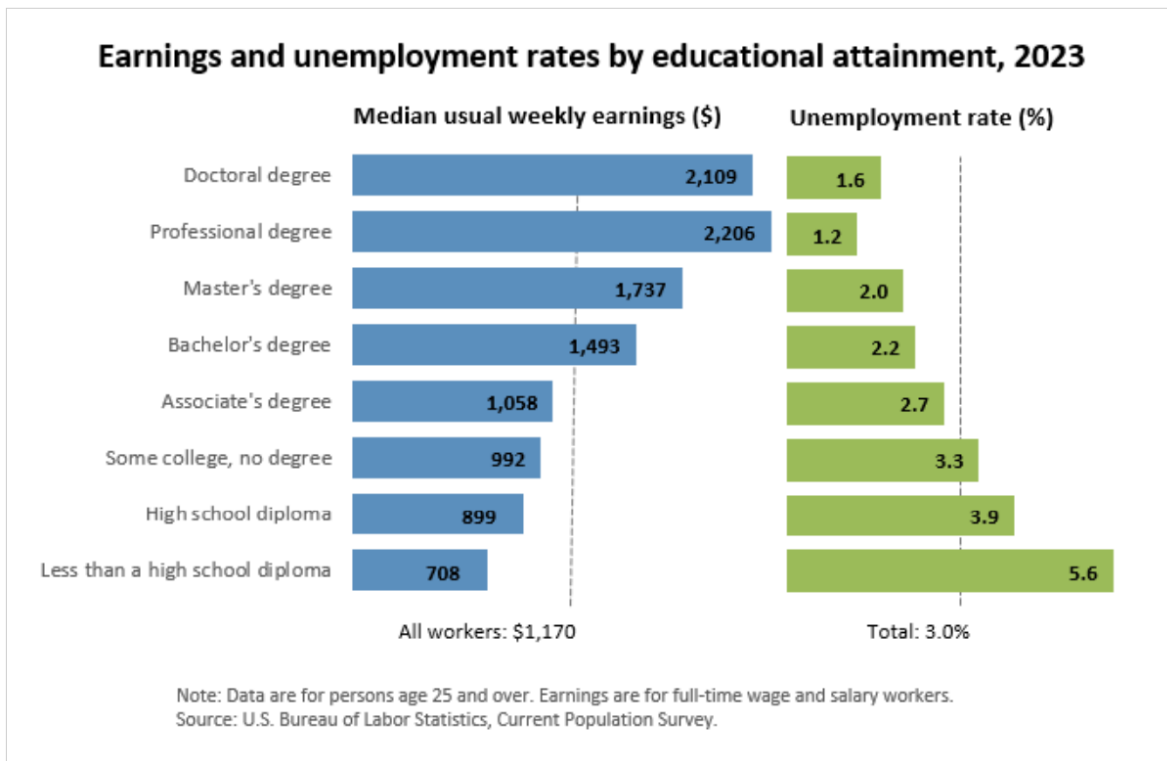
### Related Questions to Explore:

- Why do people go to college? What value can come from a college education?
- What challenges can you imagine standing in the way of college attendance? How could someone overcome those challenges?
- What do you envision for your future? Why?
- What topics or majors do you find interesting? Why?
- Besides getting a job, what are some other reasons going to college might be beneficial?
- Do you know anyone that has been to college? What did they study? What type of work do they do now?

## The True Value of College

Listeners learned that there are many “hidden” values that graduates gain from college. From higher overall income to better health, going to college may be even more important than you think!

Work with your partner to look at each graph below. Then answer the questions that follow. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the class.



<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2024/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>

Look at the left side of the chart, the amount of money each group earns on average in one week.

1. How much do workers with a high school diploma earn per week?

\_\_\_\_\_

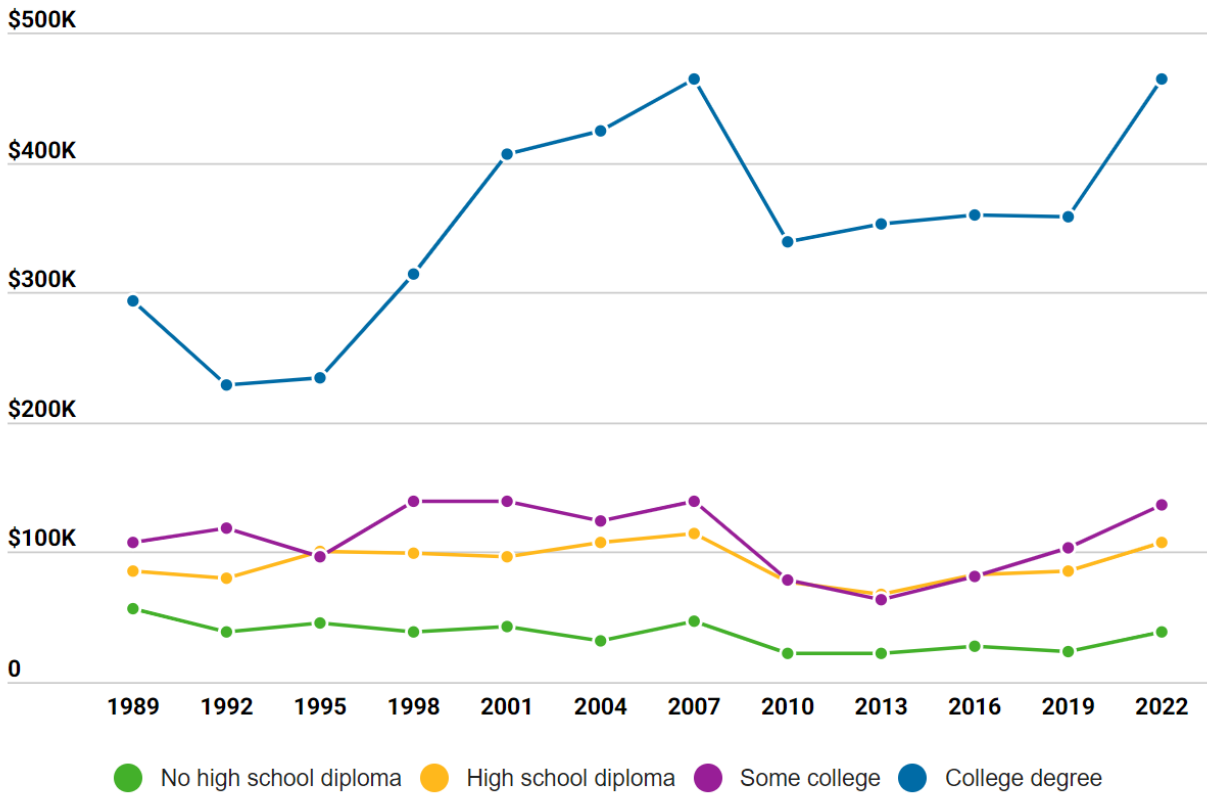


2. How much do workers with a bachelor's degree (a 4-year college education) earn? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How much more do workers with a bachelor's degree earn each week than workers with a high school diploma? \_\_\_\_\_

Now, look at the right side of the chart, the percentage of people who want a job but don't have one.

4. What percentage of people with a bachelor's degree don't have a job? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What percentage of people with a high school diploma don't have a job? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is more likely to be unemployed, a worker with a high school diploma or a worker with a bachelor's degree? \_\_\_\_\_

### Median household net worth by education



<https://www.fool.com/research/average-net-worth-americans/>

Net worth is the total value of everything someone owns, like money and houses, minus any debts they owe. A higher net worth means the person has more money or valuable things.

7. Which group had the lowest net worth in 2022? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Which group had the highest net worth in 2022? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How is education related to net worth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The True Value of College — Answers

1. How much do workers with a high school diploma earn per week? **\$899**
2. How much do workers with a bachelor's degree (a 4-year college education) earn? **\$1,493**
3. How much more do workers with a bachelor's degree earn each week than workers with a high school diploma?  **$\$1,493 - \$899 = \$594/\text{week}$**
4. What percentage of people with a bachelor's degree don't have a job? **2.2%**
5. What percentage of people with a high school diploma don't have a job? **3.9%**
6. Who is more likely to be unemployed, a worker with a high school diploma or a worker with a bachelor's degree? **A worker with a high school diploma**
7. Which group had the lowest net worth in 2022? **No high school diploma**
8. Which group had the highest net worth in 2022? **College degree**
9. How is education related to net worth? **As education level increases, net worth increases.**





## Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Education and Advancement:

1. Scholarships, FAFSA, Loans, and More: A Look at Options for Financing Higher Education
2. What Would You Do? An Exploration of College Majors and Future Careers
3. A State School, A Private School, A Community College: What Might Be Right for You and How Do You Decide?
4. And Then What? A Deep Dive into What Happens After College
5. They Went Where?! The Alma Maters of Celebrities, Politicians, and Other Famous Figures
6. Acing the Application: The Parts and Pieces of a Successful College Application
7. Mapping Out a Plan: How to Get from Where You Are Now to College