

The Costs and Benefits of College - What is the best decision for you?

When you've had to make a tough decision, has someone suggested that you make a list of pros and cons, taking a sheet of paper and putting all the positives on one side, and negatives on the other. Economists have a similar tool. It's called the cost-benefit analysis.

One of the most important decisions you will be making after graduation is whether to head to college, get some vocational training, or move right into the workforce. There are costs and benefits to each decision, and each of you will answer this question differently. This activity is designed to help you with this important decision.

Lesson Steps:

1. Make a quick list of the costs and benefits of colleges for you. Type them into each column on T-chart on the next page.
2. Explore the costs of college by getting information at the California Colleges Edu website. Go to the Financial Aid Section page, [What will college cost my family?](#)
3. Jot down the actual costs for a college that you would consider attending. Be specific, entering in amounts related to your preferences, (e.g. attend a Junior College, State College, UC, or Private school. Will you live at home or live on campus, etc.)
4. Now explore the benefits of a job you are interested in by going to the [California Career Zone](#) website. Explore the **job families** and pick a specific career or job to read about. Be sure to put the salary for this particular occupation on the benefits side of the T-chart.
5. Now, read the article, [The Pros and Cons of College Education](#). Add what you thought were the most important arguments from the article on both sides of your T-Chart. After you have filled out your T-Chart, write a paragraph on the topic, **Are the costs of college worth the benefits for you?** Remember, each of you will answer this question differently.
6. Submit your finished T chart and paragraph to our Google Classroom. This is a 25 point assignment.

T- Chart: The Costs and Benefits of College

Type in the costs and benefits below. The chart will expand as you add more ideas to both sides.

The Costs of College	The Benefits of College

Are the costs of college worth the benefits for you?

Write your paragraph below.