

## Argumentative Research Essay

When in school, high school or college, has the thought ever arose to maybe drop out and give it all up? This thought of dropping out of school is something that is making a huge impact in today's society. There are many problems with the act of dropping out of school. One of the main problems is what is happening to the people who are doing this. Statistics everywhere are showing that they are up to no good, whatsoever. According to the "Christian Science Monitor" "Nationally, about 600,000 students drop out of high school in a given year. And more than 5.8 million 16-to-24-year-olds are "disconnected" – not in school and not working."(Khadaroo, 1) It is not possible to just get away with going through life without an education these days. There is a very large desire for educated people in the workplace. The problem seems to start in all of the vital years of school for most.

As of now you are able to drop out of school at the age of sixteen. Being able to do so at such a young age is a terrible thing. Most will agree that we are in need of a change. There have been many ways that people have tried to make something so big, just stop, all of a sudden. However, there always seems to be the same problem. I believe there is a way to make this epidemic all come to an end. The answer is right in front of us and is simple. We just need to rise the age to where you can drop out of school. There is no need to have sixteen-year-old kids not being educated and out on the streets. So with this idea, there would be many great things to come. The answer to the problem of students dropping out of school can and will be solved with my process of saving the students of today's world.

This idea is going to have to start somewhere and the best spot will be to get inside the heads of the students. The students are going to be the ones to know just why they are deciding to drop out of school and not carry on their education. Even though it may seem like it, they know what they are doing and it can be stopped. The institutions are going to have to get in the heads of these students and figure out what is the reasoning for them to be leaving school. There must be an answer. While getting inside the heads of many different students, there are many different stories that come out. These factors can come from anywhere. Many have to do with some of the following factors according to Texans Can academics, " Economic factors, Academic problems, Health challenges, Behavioral issues, and Lack of involvement. (Texans Can Academics, 1) These problems can be a big challenge and can affect any student. They are not even always the student's fault and are something that comes naturally. The factors are what are affecting the next generation of students. Some of these factors that they found out about are going to be the key to stopping the event. The way to stop a student from doing the act is going to be closely related to this for sure.

The use of the information from these types of studies is starting to spark new ideas on ways to get kids to stop from dropping out of school. All of the factors listed above fall into the ways that can be used to get to a solution. They all seem to go along the same lines of a lack of maturity. There are ways that this can be prevented.

There needs to be an act of discipline from a very young age. It would definitely help with the way a student acts later in life. The problem is indeed lack of

this discipline. If there is more of it practiced at school the students will grow up knowing that school is a place of learning and not goofing off. These principals can carry on through their school career.

This lack of discipline seems like a great idea. The students will be better-rounded people when they grow up, and have better lives. This seems like it is the way to go. However, there are studies out there that are showing different. They're stating that when applying more discipline to the students, such as detention suspension and expulsion, the results are turning out bad when the student goes on in school. They have trends to drop out more in these situations. I found an article on this topic that was writing on a blog site. They state, from [blogs.edweek.org](http://blogs.edweek.org), "According to testimony from three public hearings in Massachusetts, excessive discipline for non-violent offenses such as tardiness, truancy, profanity and insubordination exacerbates the dropout rate." (Are Dropouts and Discipline Connected, 1). This is implying that maybe the large amount of discipline that is put on a student might not be so good after all. The idea of pressuring them so much is something that can sometimes be more hurtful than it is helpful. The article seems to state that they have figured out that when a student is punished for doing something bad that they tend to do something worse and not obey the punishment. The relation to this is something that will not work as a solution to the problem of school dropouts, it seems. There must be a different way to look about things and decide to take a different approach to stopping the students from doing such a thing.

Some other studies have looked at the way students have dropped out of schools in the past and are coming up with some new ideas. They have some great

thoughts, but I think there is another way to get down to a great problem solving idea. Many students think of dropping out of school because school is no fun for them. They are thinking the whole time they are there that what they are doing is stupid and pointless. This is something that can be changed and turned around if looked in to. I think that if school was made more fun and interesting for some students that the idea of leaving school before graduation would be thrown out the window. I know that I myself have thought of times in high school where I was wondering what I would ever need to learn this stuff for would be. This is common in many high school situations. Students do not take classes that interest them and they get bored and want to leave. The answer for this is simple and is something that can be fixed with the offering of more classes in schools.

As of now there are not many new and exciting courses offered in high schools across the nation. The ability to take a class like a special art or agriculture class is something that could change the life of a student. Students may be interested in things like the world of science and technology, but have no classes to take to keep them interested in school. Some institutions across the country are offering things like these for high school students to take. As I read on nydailynews.com, "Starting in September of 2013, new classes on topics such as computer programming, Web design and robotics will be offered in middle schools and high schools across the city of New York." (City High Schools, 1). These new classes are hoping to open up new ideas for students and allow them to stay interested in topics, hence keeping them in school. This is something that is sweeping the nation. Other classes that have been applied to schools in the US are the agriculture related

courses in high schools. From experience, I have discovered that this can help a student stay focused on school. Agriculture class in my school was what had kept me interested and even allowed me to declare my major here at SIU. The things like this are what will help the students from dropping out of school. They seem to be the best option, but there needs to be something more to keep students in the classroom. There could be something else that goes beyond and makes graduating high school something that just happens.

The best option I can think of seems to be the idea of making it not so easy to drop out of school in the first place. This is the whole problem. It is just too easy to drop out of school and leave completely. The best way to do this is simply, to make the age that a student can drop out of school much higher. The age of sixteen is just too young to make a decision like this. There needs to be some change to make something like the huge topic of school dropouts come to an end. There are many other ways that could be done to try to get this done, but this is the only option that makes sense and is possible to do. It would not be that hard, and can greatly change the lives of students in the future of the US's economy and other aspects.

When a student decides to drop out of school they are at age in their life where they basically have a fork in the road. They can make a decision to go down one road or the other. These two decisions are to either, stay in school and get an education that can support them for the rest of their life in their career, or drop out of school and end up in a position to potentially be in a dead end. The facts show that making the decision to go to college and finish high school is the better choice. According to bobupgren.com, "Over the course of his or her lifetime, a high school

dropout earns, on average, about \$260,000 less than a high school graduate.” (UPGREN, 1). This is just not a decision that someone at the age of 16 should be making. They just do not have the maturity and knowledge to know what they are doing, at this time. The age to where you can drop out of high school needs to be higher, to give the student the opportunity to think their actions through. This age should be more around the timeframe of their eighteenth year. This idea would give the student much more time to decide what is best for their future. In an area where school is not the number one priority, it can be difficult to make this decision. When the dropout age is raised to eighteen, the students would have that extra experience under their belts and be able to make a more educated decision for their life.

There have been people who have made many arguments on this already, in the country. One of which was on [futura.org](http://futura.org), and was very informative on how changing the age to be able to drop out of school would be beneficial to the students. It would be the way to solve the problem, if there is an answer at all. There, just need to be a stop at the source and that is my idea exactly. On this page they state, ““Ideally, these laws don’t mean a truant officer tracks students down and forces them into class,” Oreopoulos says. “Today, students are still in school at the age of 16, not because they are forced to stay, but because it has become the social norm. Raising the leaving age to 18 may establish a new norm.” (Futura.org). They seem to think this would be a great idea to stop the dropout rate or at least reduce it. The idea is something that is going to have to be planned out and thought through. It will work, however, and will adjust the way of thinking.

Another aspect that a school as tried is to make the requirement of education to be to graduate or turn eighteen. In the same article they have talked about this and tried this way of thinking on the students. In this piece they state, "In Ontario, the school-leaving age is 18 or graduation, whichever comes first." (Kim Wright-u, 1). This is something that they have tried and found out that it is working. The act has made the rates of graduation better. The students will just want to at least graduate because they are going to be there for 4 years anyway. It is the rules to stay there until the time is up for you, so the theory is something that is working. If this could be spread throughout the US the results could be astonishing. Graduation rates would more than likely flourish and rise to an all time high. The United States needs this new education law to come into effect and soon at that. This law will only help the economy of the future for having more qualified people in the country that needs it the most.

An article on Kentucky.com stated that they where too going to try to attack the subject of school dropouts and raise their ager to eighteen. Along with many other states they have some valid points on to why it will be such a good thing to do. They state, "Now, Kentucky students can drop out of school at age 16. Educators have warned for years that students who do that are unprepared for success in today's demanding marketplace, and that they risk spending their lives in low-paying jobs or worse." (Kentucky.com, 1). This seems to be a common resolution to the problem. The idea is something that is sweeping the nation in not only Kentucky, but other states as well. The idea is something that could possibly save the future.

It is no surprise that the event is now going nation wide. That's right, even the president has made a proposal to make the new age to be able to drop out of school 18 years old. This is surly a good idea and something that needs to take action soon.

In Obama's state of the union address, according to NYtimes.com, there has been a new proposition to rise the age. Some states have taken action already and there are surely more to come. According to the site, "The dropout age, historically set at 16 in most of the nation, has been edging up. Currently, 21 states and the District of Columbia have compulsory attendance until 18, and 11 others require attendance until age 17." (Lewin, 1). This idea is going to be great. The information shows that it is starting to work and is continuing to spread to some states slowly.

So this new idea is not just a made up thing that many think will be the answer to our problems. This idea is in action and is something that is proven to work. The facts are there and it will indeed work for us. With the new ways, the schooling requirements will be better, the future of students will be better, and the overall economic outlook of America will flourish. This is not something that is a joke. It needs to be taken care of and will be best for everyone.



## Work Sited

- Institute of Education Sciences. "Fast Facts." *Fast Facts*. National Center for Education Statistics, n.d. Web. 07 May 2013.
- Khadaroo, Stacy Teicher. "How to Get High School Dropouts into 'recovery'? Ideas Bloom across US." *The Christian Science Monitor*. The Christian Science Monitor, 15 Jan. 2013. Web. 07 May 2013
- Texans Can Academics. "Main Causes Of High School Dropouts: What Are They And What Can Be Done?" *Texanscan*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 May 2013.
- "Are Dropouts and Discipline Connected?" *Education Week*. Education Week, 9 June 2010. Web. 07 May 2013
- "City High Schools Will Launch New Technology Education Courses in 20 Institutions This Fall." *NY Daily News*. NY Daily News, Feb.-Mar. 2013. Web. 07 May 2013.
- UPGREN, BOB. "6 Statistics and Reasons NOT to Drop Out of School." *Bob Upgren ~ Author · Speaker · Master Chalk Artist*. BOB UPGREN, 7 Jan. 2011. Web. 07 May 2013.
- Kim Wright-U. "Futurity: Discover the Future." *Futurityorg RSS*. Futurity, n.d. Web. 07 May 2013.
- "Kentucky.com." *Fayette School Board Endorses Raising Dropout Age to 18*. Kentucky.com, 20 Apr. 2013. Web. 07 May 2013.
- Lewin, Tamar. "Obama Wades Into Issue Of Raising Dropout Age." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 26 Jan. 2012. Web. 07 May 2013