

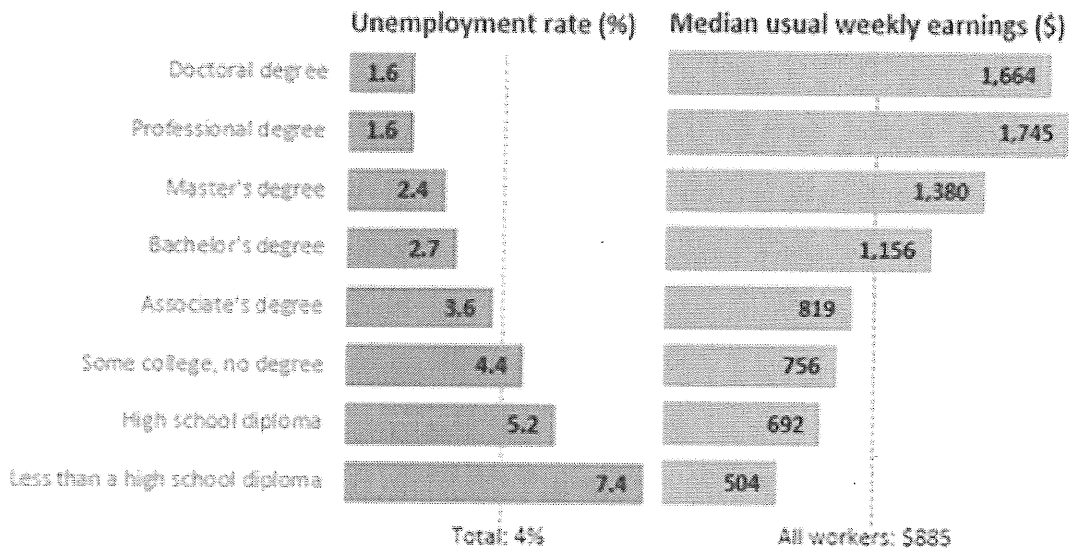
High School Diploma vs College Degree

While the true value of a college education will be different for everyone, we do have statistics that can give us a reasonably accurate picture. Below is a chart that displays the median weekly earnings of U.S. citizens, grouped by the amount of education they've completed. We are going to examine three categories in this chart:

- *High School Diploma* - These people graduated high school but never attended college
- *Some college, no degree* - These people attended college, but did not graduate
- *Bachelor's Degree* - These people graduated from a four-year undergraduate college or university (but did not go on to achieve higher degrees)

Use the chart to fill in the information in the table below. Then answer the questions underneath the table.

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2016



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Earnings Over Time	High School Diploma	Some college, no degree	Bachelor's Degree
Weekly Earnings			
Yearly Earning			
Earnings over a 40-year career			

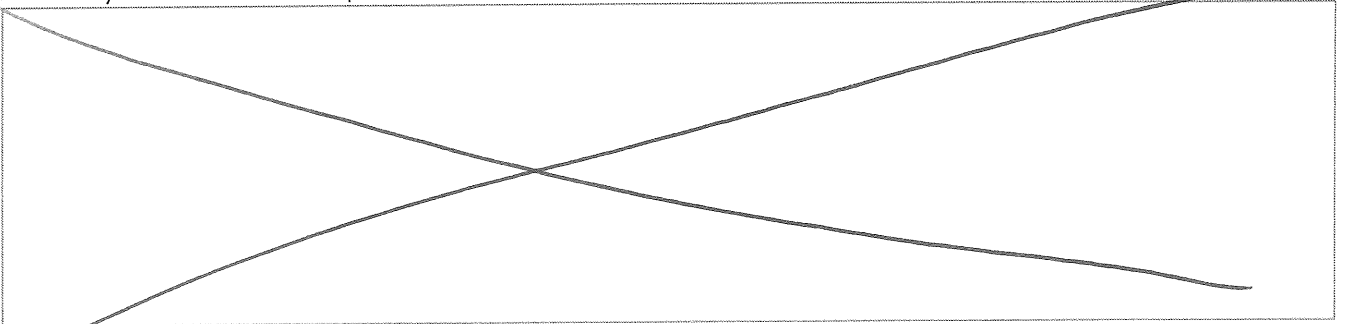
4. How much more value are you creating for yourself over a 40-year career by completing college than *only completing high school*? Please show your work.

5. How much more value are you creating for yourself over a 40-year career by completing college than *starting college but not finishing*? Please show your work.

Part III: Reflection - How Do You Value a College Education Now?

6. What is your initial reaction to seeing the value of a college education? What emotion(s) did you feel? Surprise? Frustration? Happiness? Explain your answer.

7. How did your estimation compare to the actual value of a college education?



8. Why do you think the value of some college is much closer to a high school diploma than a bachelor's degree?

9. Does this change your views on whether a college education is a smart investment? If yes, explain why. If no, explain why not.