

Is College For Everyone?

A popular question that has come up in today's society: should every American go to college? "Is College for Everyone" by Pharient discusses this subject in an essay. Pharient explains throughout the essay that not every American should go to college. Pharient uses a wide variety of strategies to prove his point in the argument. "There are too many students enrolled in school who simply don't belong there." is the thesis for the essay and the author makes many points to explain this.

This explains that no, college is not for everyone. Pharient explains that everyone today expects to go to college, when really it just isn't for everyone. Many students cannot face the academic and financial challenges college brings. Between books and other living expenses, many young adults don't realize how much money is needed. In order to get money students apply to jobs, which eventually takes away from the time needed to get an education. Students are also not academically ready for college, they have not been challenged enough in previous schools. They aren't prepared at the level of academics needed to enter college.

Another issue that comes to everyone attending college is that they just aren't motivated enough. Many students go by the motto "C's get degrees", which just shows the lack of motivation some college students have. These students are not ready for college and should accept that there are other options after high school. Pharinet ends the essay saying that everyone should be happy, and that many people have found happiness in jobs that do not require a college degree.

Pharient is addressing a wide group of people. High school students could read this if they are deciding whether college is right for them or not. College students could also see this essay an eye-opener and that they could be happier somewhere else. The same goes for any people not attending college, they might realize that they are ready to take on the financial and academic challenges college brings them. Pharinet uses various strategies to appeal to this wide audience.

“You won’t get anywhere without your education.” This is the first sentence in the essay, and Pharinet uses this to get the reader to recognize what society has lead us to believe about college. This is a strong first sentence because it gets the reader to question his or her view on attending college. This helps Pharinet prove the point more easily because the audience is more open-minded. This one sentence sets the mood for the whole essay. Pathos, ethos, and logos will all be used in this essay.

Logos is not present often in this article, but it is still an effective strategy. It is only used once, at the very beginning of the article. “Though drop-outs rates vary, it is estimated that in U.S., approximately 50%, of students who begin college never graduate.” (Pharinet 680) is the only form of logos used. However this is an important sentence. It goes along with the central theme of the article that college is not for everyone. This statistic shows that of all the people attending college, half of them cannot face the challenges it brings. Pharinet wants viewers to really consider if college is right for them before they make a commitment, because half do not succeed.

Pharinet uses ethos the most throughout the essay. In almost every paragraph Pharinet uses beliefs and ideals to prove the point college isn’t for everyone. In the first paragraph Pharinet states “Factors on attending college vary from personal to professional.” (Pharinet 680). This idea is further explained in the essay. Pharinet later states “Now, college is the place you go when you want to get a good job, appease your parents, or because you are “finding yourself’.” (Pharinet 680). This is used to explain how people perceive college, when in fact this is not always true. Pharinet conveys this message with a certain tone throughout the essay.

This essay has a relaxed tone throughout it. Pharinet writes to viewers as if they were in the same room discussing the topic. It’s not very formal, because it’s explaining how college may not be for everyone, so everyone should be able to read and understand this. Using relatable situations and quotes the audience can really understand what Pharinet is talking about. The essay is organize in a reverse cause and effect type of way. It states what the problems college students have, then it goes on to later explain

why this happens, and what can be done to solve the problem. This is a good technique because it causes the reader to first think about the issue, such as financial or academic challenges. Then as the paragraph progresses, the reader realizes why the issue is the way it is.

In the end, college just is not for everyone. We've grown up in a society where everyone is expected to go. In reality, most people are not ready for it. Financial challenges such as food, rent, clothing, and other things greatly affect college students who are not used to paying for these things on their own. Academic challenges are also present. Many students have entered college with a high school education that did not prepare them for college. Another factor is that students are not motivated enough in school. Many college students are content with getting average grades when they should be excited and ready to learn. Pharinet explains all this with a professional use of logos and ethos. The structure and tone of the essay greatly add to the overall experience of the article. Pharinet explains finally that people do not have to go to college. There are many other paths people can choose besides going to college. In the end, it's about being happy. People should go train for jobs that they will truly enjoy, and not do what today's society expects of them.

Works Cited

Pharinet. "Is College For Everyone?" Practical Argument: A Text and Anthology.

Bedford/St. Martins, 2010. 680-682. Print.