

The Value of Education



Value of Education

High school dropout, no degree	\$19,226
High school diploma	\$28,950
Two-year college associate's degree	\$36,395
Four-year college graduate with bachelor's degree	\$51,568
Post-graduate degree (six plus years)	\$67,073

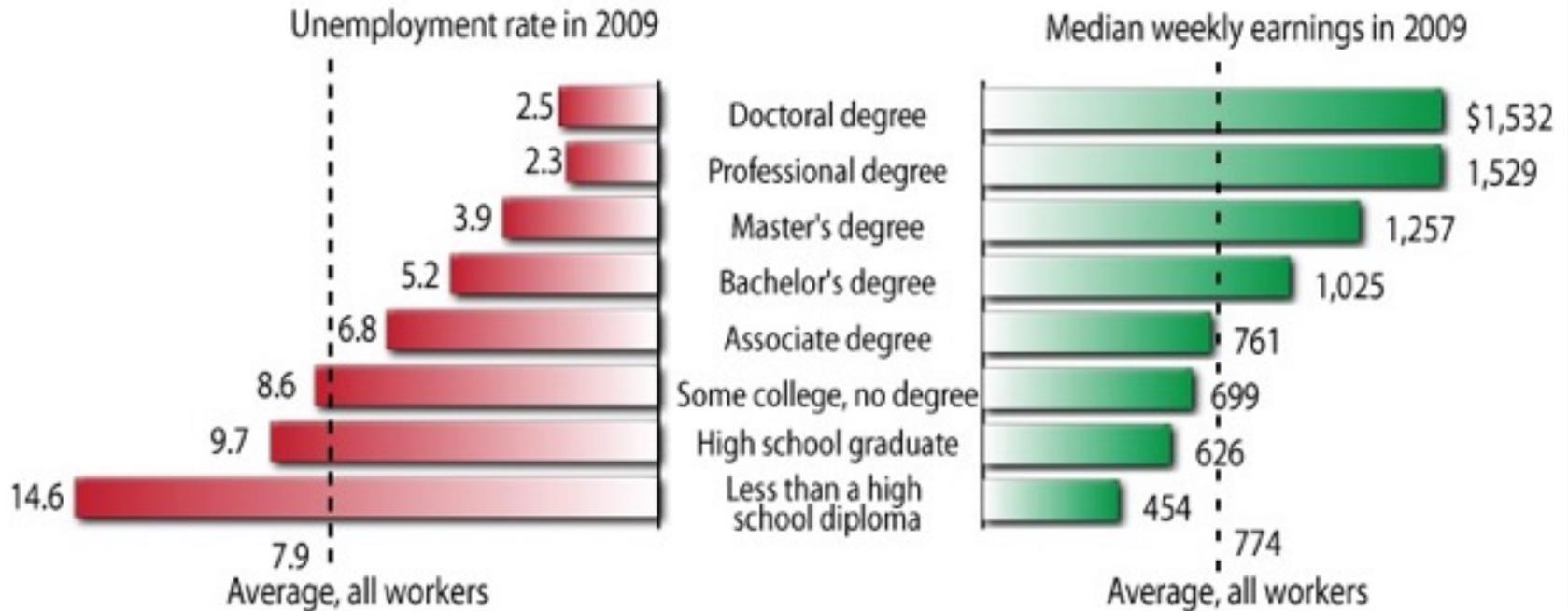
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement

These figures show that for the average person, finishing high school is worth about \$10,000 more (compared with dropping out). And finishing college nearly doubles the worth of that number to \$22,000 more!

Uneducated = Unemployed

Education pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates

Education pays



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

An Employer's Perspective

"Someone who couldn't complete high school probably finds it difficult to complete any task."

"How bright can a high school dropout be?"

"High school can be hard work. A high school dropout is probably scared of a little hard work."

"A high school dropout didn't learn some things that are needed to be good at this job!"

Some Things About School Are So...

Finish the sentence "Some things about school are so..." by listing those things about school you think are difficult or hard, those that are comfortable or so-so, and those that are easy for you.

Difficult

Comfortable

Easy

What actions can you take to improve your ability and skill in areas you find difficult?

What is your plan of action, your timeline, for improvement?

Calculate the difference between...

	H.S. Dropout	H.S. Diploma	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Advanced Degree
Annual Income	\$19,226	\$28,950	\$36,395	\$51,568	\$67,073

Calculate the **difference** in salary between:

- A high school dropout and a high school graduate.
- A high school graduate and a graduate from a two-year college program (associate's degree).
- A two-year college graduate and a four-year college graduate (bachelor's degree).
- A four year college graduate and an individual with an advanced degree (master's or doctorate).

Calculate the lifetime earnings of each level of educational attainment using the table below. Have students assume each person works until 70 years of age. Other assumptions include:

- A. The high school dropout begins full-time work at age 16.*
- B. The high school graduate begins full-time work at age 18.*
- C. The graduate of the two-year college begins full-time work at age 20.*
- D. The graduate of the four-year college begins full-time work at age 22.*
- E. The graduate with a master's degree begins full-time work at age 24.*

	H.S. Dropout	H.S. Diploma	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Advanced Degree
Annual Income	\$19,226	\$28,950	\$36,395	\$51,568	\$67,073
Years Worked					
Life Earnings					

Write three paragraphs summarizing what you have learned about careers and income. Include comments about employer's perspectives and your feelings about school. Conclude with your educational goals and how they will influence your income.