Name _____

College Debt Debate

Directions: Read the editorial passage carefully. Highlight or underline the parts of the passage that provide *evidence* to support the author's argument. After reading, complete the questions below, focusing on whether the evidence is strong, relevant, and persuasive.

Editorial: A Case for Free Public College Tuition

Education has always been the backbone of opportunity in America. Yet today, too many students are denied access to higher education simply because of cost. A recent study found that the average college graduate leaves school with nearly $30,000 in debt. For low-income families, that number makes college appear impossible.

Free public college tuition would open the doors of opportunity for millions. In countries like Germany and Finland, students already benefit from free or extremely low-cost higher education, and their economies remain competitive in a global market. If these nations can make it work, so can we.

Critics argue that free tuition would be too expensive. But in reality, the U.S. already spends billions on tax breaks that primarily benefit the wealthy. Redirecting these funds toward tuition would not only reduce inequality but also strengthen the workforce by producing more educated graduates ready to contribute to society.

1. Identify one piece of evidence from the passage that uses a **statistic**. Do you find this evidence convincing? Why or why not?

2. What example from another country is used as evidence? Does this strengthen the argument? Explain your reasoning.

3. What counterargument is mentioned in the passage? How does the author respond to it?

4. Evaluate the evidence about tax breaks. Is this relevant to the argument about tuition costs? Why or why not?

5. Overall, do you think the editorial provides strong evidence for its claim? Support your answer with at least two references to the passage.