

College Debt Debate Answer Key

1. Statistic Evidence

- Model Answer: The editorial states that “the average college graduate leaves school with nearly \$30,000 in debt.” This is convincing because it highlights the scale of the financial burden.
- *Teacher Note:* Look for recognition of the statistic and evaluation of why numbers can persuade.

2. International Example

- Model Answer: The passage cites Germany and Finland as examples of nations offering free or low-cost tuition. This strengthens the argument because it shows the idea has worked successfully elsewhere.
- *Teacher Note:* Accept answers that discuss how international comparisons create credibility.

3. Counterargument and Response

- Model Answer: Critics argue free tuition would be too expensive. The author responds by pointing out that the U.S. already spends billions on tax breaks for the wealthy, suggesting funds could be redirected.
- *Teacher Note:* Students should recognize the counterargument structure and rebuttal.

4. Tax Break Evidence

- Model Answer: The evidence about tax breaks is relevant because it shows where funding could come from. It connects directly to the concern about cost.
- *Teacher Note:* Answers should acknowledge the link between cost and funding sources.

5. Overall Strength

- Model Answer: The editorial is fairly strong because it uses statistics, international examples, and a counterargument with a rebuttal. However, it could be improved by adding more detailed data about how costs would be managed long-term.
- *Teacher Note:* Encourage balanced evaluation; students should recognize both strengths and potential gaps.