

8 Great Quotes: The Cost of College

Brought to you by Dave Ramsey

It's no secret that college is expensive. Sadly, more and more incoming freshmen and returning students are signing up for student loans without thinking about the long-term affects of that debt. Our friend Dave Ramsey recently asked about student debt on a blog post. Below are some of the best and worst quotes from college students on taking out long-term debt.

"I was not prepared to take on debt. I was told I would get a fantastic job and not

have to worry about my loans, but I have the same job I did when I started college and now I'm \$40,000 in debt." —*Kelci T.*

"I had no idea what the difference was between subsidized and unsubsidized loans when I started. I'm paying for it now." —*Amy D.*

"I didn't know what I wanted to do and switched my major twice. To see what that cost me in student loans is unreal!" —*Steph C.*

"Planning ahead really works!

Make researching scholarships a part-time job for at least six months before you are planning on going—it really works! I received over \$18,000 in scholarships!" —*Beth A.*

"I'm going to finish college with a RN degree and next to no debt by attending a community college! I pay \$4,000 a year when my friends are going up the road to a university and paying \$20,000 for the same degree!" —*Mark F.*

Continued on page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Cost of College 1-2

What We'll Do for a Deal 1

Duluth Saves Mission 2

Our New Opportunities 2

By and Now 3

Common Cents 4

What a Letter Can Do 4

What We'll Do for a Deal

Many people can think of ways to try to beat the system. It might be a rebate system or a loophole someone hasn't noticed...or so you think...somewhere you think you can make a buck. **Here's an example:** Using a credit card to get a

rebate. Seriously? Let's break it down. You are willing to risk double-digit interest rates, fees, collectors and a high debt load to get a 2% rebate on your purchases? You would need to spend \$1,000/month to make \$20! That won't even pay for din-

ner and a movie!

Now credit cards are not always bad, especially if you are trying to build credit and use them wisely (paying them off every month), but think twice if you are tempted by what appears to be a "deal".



Duluth Saves strives to meet the diverse needs of all Duluthians regardless of income.

We truly believe that everyone can build wealth and better their financial future with the right tools and the right encouragement.

For more information contact Rachel at 726-1665.



Community Action Duluth

8 Great Quotes Continued...

"We see a LOT of people who have no idea what it costs to go to a university, a private college or a community college, let alone what it costs for living expenses. I encourage people to go to school or at least start school, in their own backyard—check out your local community college first!" — *Regina D., College Recruiter*

"My biggest piece of advise is don't borrow for a lifestyle you want, borrow if and when you have to." — *Sam C., Financial Aid Officer*

"Planning ahead and doing the research about what career you choose not only helps you decide what program and what college to attend but helps you look at your future finances, what you

will be making and what you will be able to afford in student loan payments." — *Greyson L., Financial Aid Officer*



We all know that higher education can and usually is a wonderful thing that can catapult us to another level of financial security and freedom and provide us with a sense of pride and happiness in doing something we love. When higher education becomes a burden rather than an

asset is when we don't plan ahead, we don't have a goal in mind and we don't do our research. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are feeling the pains of poor planning and a high student debt load.

The good news? Community Action has recently partnered with Lake Superior College. We are proud to offer a number of workshops that help you plan, research and apply for financial aid. Take action today to prevent the burden of debt tomorrow. Find out more on page 3, with our new "Workshop Wednesdays" schedule!

For more information, contact Maggie at 726-1665!

Find Out More About Our New Opportunities!

Attend an orientation session—no RSVP necessary!

Tuesdays at 1:00pm and Wednesdays at 5:30pm at Community Action Duluth

When the Words “By” and “Now” Don’t Go Together

By Jon Acuff

I hate the words “by now”. Not separately. I’ve never had a problem with “by” when it’s on its own or supporting another sentence. And “now” is a fine word too. It’s short, it rhymes with cow, it’s often the place people encourage you to live “in the moment—now”. But when those two words team up and hit the town together, fist pumping and partying the night away, they become something entirely different. They are not peanut butter and chocolate, together at last. They are orange juice and gasoline, helpful in isolation, napalm collectively.

The problem is that “by now” is a phrase we say to ourselves when we’re trying to believe the lie that it’s too late to start pursuing our dream. As we survey our lives and stand on the edge of the pos-

sibility cliff, we start to say things like: “If I were really going to be a high school teacher, *by now* I would



have already had a few years of teaching experience.” If I were going to be a musician, *by now* I’d be better at the guitar.” And so on, and so on.

The goal of the phrase “by now” is to offer yourself a twisted justification that indeed, you could have been what you wanted to be but alas, you’re too late. The tricky thing is that “by now” isn’t age specific. You can tell this to yourself at

age 25, 55 or 105. And if you convince yourself of this, you will also believe the next lie, which is “don’t start”—the window of opportunity has closed. The ship has sailed while I was busy working or parenting or paying off student loans. It’s too late, don’t start.

Don’t let the phrase “by now” into your life. You have the power to keep it out or let it in....don’t let it in.

It’s time to start believing, dreaming and accomplishing. It’s time to discover how to kick that lie to the curb and discover how you can pursue whatever you choose to. It may take time...maybe even years, but it’s never too late to start and we can help.

Join Us for Workshop Wednesdays!

Are you interested in starting or going back to school? Want to polish your interviewing skills or resume before you take the plunge into a new career opportunity? Wishing you knew how to address those collection letters?

Community Action is excited to offer “Workshop Wednesdays”! A new schedule of events starting in September!

Workshops are offered from 1-3pm and 6-8pm with childcare

and food—choose which time works for you!

2nd Wednesday: Education

3rd Wednesday: Employment

4th Wednesday: Financial

Join us! *RSVP to Maggie 726-1665.*



Community Action Duluth
19 North 21st Avenue West
218.726.1665

www.communityactionduluth.org

Engaging the community to end poverty

Join us for a **FREE** class focusing on financial topics including homeownership

Next Class:

Thursdays and Mondays
September 1 – September 29
6:00pm–8:00pm

Call to register: 726.1665

Food and Childcare provided!

How an Old Fashioned Letter Can Give You The Edge

You're walking out of your interview and that's it—the ball is in the hiring manager's court now, right? Wrong! What many job seekers fail to realize, is that their interview is not over until they send a follow-up...

Immediately after you walk out of the interview office, it is essential that you write down details that were covered in the interview, your skills that will be needed for the job as well as areas of weakness that you felt the interviewer had a concern about. Even if you blew the interview, follow-up could lead to a recommendation for another.

So, follow-up...what is that? A **THANK YOU!** The goal of a thank you letter is to reinforce that you listened, understood the organization's needs and are seriously inter-

ested in the job! Even if you are the most qualified for the job, if you don't prove how much you want it, you are missing a critical opportunity that another, less qualified, candidate may take advantage of.

The three most important components of a thank you follow-up include: **Appreciation**—show your gratitude for the hiring manager's time, **Interest**—reinforce the key topics that were discussed and why the company and projects excite you and **Relevance**—sell your skills and experience to prove you are capable of the job and its challenges.

Make sure the hiring staff receives your note within 2 business days. An e-mail is sure to land in the right hands and on-time—a

good option. Another option that many don't think about, is a hand written thank you letter. This can make a great impression and make you stand out as a person who truly appreciates the opportunity.

If you would like help practicing your interview skills, polishing your resume, putting together a cover letter or drafting your interview thank you, let our career coaches help!

