

Bennett, William J. *Is college worth it?: a former United States Secretary of Education and a liberal arts graduate expose the broken promise of higher education*, by William J. Bennett and David Wilezol. Thomas Nelson, 2013. 278p index ISBN 9781595552792, \$22.99

Higher education has been front and center in the public eye--and parents' eyes--of late, and not just because of seemingly endless football scandals. Why does college cost so much? Is college really worth it on a rate-of-return basis (or should there be a better metric)? How worried should people be about student indebtedness? Whither the humanities and liberal arts? What will the future of higher education look like? Are MOOCs the answer? Former Secretary of Education Bennett and Morning in America radio colleague Wilezol leap into this fray. With bullet points, vignettes, homilies, and data, the authors break down the landscape and pose important questions for students, parents, university officials, and public policy bureaucrats. They also assign blame, mostly and not surprisingly, given the principal author's political leanings, to the government for massive subsidies to this industrial complex, and they offer some things for all to ponder. From their opening section, "The Truth about College," to the closing--"Twelve Hypothetical Scenarios" and "Schools Worth Attending"--the questions are better than the answers. But is this book worth reading? Yes. Summing Up: Recommended. Public, undergraduate, and professional library collections.