

# The Changing World of Work

## What Should We Ask of Higher Education?

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
a. Far too many young people get college degrees without developing needed job skills, such as writing ability and critical thinking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The world of work is changing so rapidly that it's a mistake for higher education to focus too much on what businesses say they need right now.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. One of the most important steps institutions of higher education can take is to keep their costs down so more people can go to college and complete their degrees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Colleges and universities have a moral obligation to take a leading role in addressing the economic and social issues in their surrounding communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Businesses should take more responsibility for teaching the specific skills needed in their companies, rather than expecting students to get them in college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. If we want to improve our economy and society, a broad general college education is more important than a college education focused on learning skills for specific jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
a. Redesign the curriculum to emphasize skills like critical thinking and collaborative problem solving, EVEN IF many students are more interested in gaining specific skills that will qualify them for good jobs when they graduate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cut back on elective course requirements so students must take more courses in their major field, EVEN IF that means students would have less exposure to ideas outside their chosen course of study.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A college education should prepare students to be active, involved citizens and community leaders, EVEN IF that means they take fewer courses that prepare them for specific jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Rate colleges based on whether their graduates get jobs and how much they earn, EVEN IF schools that educate large numbers of teachers, artists, and social servants get lower ratings because people in these fields generally earn less.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Question 2 continued on next page)

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

(Question 2 continued from previous page)

Strongly Favor      Somewhat Favor      Somewhat Oppose      Strongly Oppose      Not Sure

- e. Provide more work/study opportunities so students learn professional skills through direct experience on the job, EVEN IF this would extend the time needed to graduate.  Strongly Favor     Somewhat Favor     Somewhat Oppose     Strongly Oppose     Not Sure
- f. Get colleges and universities much more involved in addressing vital needs in the community such as incubating new businesses, EVEN IF this would divert taxpayer and tuition dollars to issues only marginally related to student courses and academic research.  Strongly Favor     Somewhat Favor     Somewhat Oppose     Strongly Oppose     Not Sure
- g. Colleges and universities should offer tutoring to local high school students to better prepare them for college, and expand remedial education programs, EVEN IF this would further drive up the costs of undergraduate education.  Strongly Favor     Somewhat Favor     Somewhat Oppose     Strongly Oppose     Not Sure
- h. Provide public space on campus for community members to gather, address issues, and organize activities, EVEN IF this involves colleges in controversial issues and partisan political causes that compromise their neutrality.  Strongly Favor     Somewhat Favor     Somewhat Oppose     Strongly Oppose     Not Sure
- i. Offer college credit for alternative experiences like work and military or national service, EVEN IF this means people can get degrees without spending nearly as much time in classes with professors and other students.  Strongly Favor     Somewhat Favor     Somewhat Oppose     Strongly Oppose     Not Sure

3. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in this conversation?  Yes     No

If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. In this conversation, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before?  Yes     No

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this conversation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?

- 0                       1-3                       4-6                       7 or more                       Not sure

7. Are you male or female?     Male                       Female

8. How old are you?

- 17 or younger     18-30                       31-45                       46-64                       65 or older

9. Are you:     African American                       Asian American                       Hispanic or Latino                       Native American

White/Caucasian                       Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Where do you live?     Rural                       Small Town                       Large City                       Suburban

11. What is your ZIP code? \_\_\_\_\_ What state do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please give this form to the moderator, or mail it to National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459.**