



# ELA Virtual Learning

# **7th Grade ELA**

April 8th, 2020



7th ELA

Lesson: April 8th, 2020

## Objective/Learning Target:

**I can:**

- Explain the main idea of a text and
- Explain the relationship between the main idea and supporting evidence
- write responses using complete sentences with standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar



7th ELA

Lesson: April 8th, 2020

**Essential Question:**

**How can I determine the main idea of something I read?**

## Warm Up:

Check out this news video that gives a quick overview of what started happening to the Brazilian rainforest a couple of months ago:

[Video: Fires Rage Across the Amazon](#)



On notebook paper, complete a quick write that addresses the following questions:

- 1) What do you know about the term “deforestation?”
- 2) What is happening to the rainforest in Brazil? Why is it happening?
- 3) What is your opinion about what is happening?

Write for 2-3 Minutes!

# Learn:

- The main idea is the most important point or message of the article.
- The main idea does not include specific details.
- The main idea includes the who, what, when, and where with the most important point.
- Main idea is NOT a theme.
- Main idea is NOT a summary.



# How do you determine the main idea when reading nonfiction?

-ideas that are repeated

-details from the article all connect back to the main idea

-what do the details all have in common?

-mentioned in the title

-visual elements/text features can help the reader determine main idea

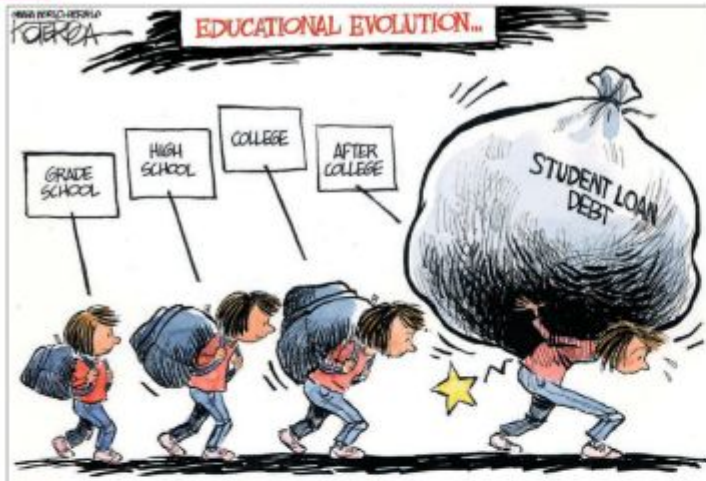


Don't read this article, just look at the features.



The title gives the author a clue about the main idea of the article.

ECONOMICS



# Drowning in DEBT

Today's college students are graduating with more student loan debt than any generation before. Can anything be done about it? BY JOE RUBIN

When she was a senior at High Point University in North Carolina, Britany Gentilhomme dreamed of renting an apartment and living on her own after graduation in 2017. Instead, she had difficulty landing a job in her chosen field, communications, and had to move back into her parents' home in Milford, New Hampshire, for three years

so she could try to make a dent in the \$65,000 she borrowed in student loans. Gentilhomme, now 24, says living with her parents made her feel "like my life was on hold. I didn't feel like an adult." She's far from the only college graduate saddled with debt. About two-thirds of seniors at four-year colleges are carrying student loans. In 2017, the average was more than \$29,000, according to the Institute for College

Access and Success, a nonprofit group advocating affordable higher education. That's up from \$13,000 in 1996, when adjusting for inflation.

"This generation of students is the most debt burdened ever, and it's a huge problem for them," says Melissa Baradanan, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, who specializes in banking law. "I do think you're going to have a generation of students whose main concern, instead of finding a partner they love and coming up with a career, they have this huge part of their psychological and emotional toll being about the servicing of these debts."

**The Soaring Price of an Education**  
Americans spend more on college than almost anyone else in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But college in the U.S. didn't always cost so much. Thirty years ago, average tuition and fees for a public university

were less than \$5,000 per year in today's dollars. Now the average is more than \$10,000. The cost of attending a private college has also doubled in that time, from about \$18,000 a year to more than \$36,000 today (see graph, below).

At the same time that college tuition has soared, wages in the U.S. have barely risen, after accounting for inflation. That has made it harder for parents to shoulder the tuition by themselves, and students are increasingly turning to loans.

Why has college gotten so expensive? Economists point to the increasing costs of technology, dorms, and other facilities, as well as to the rising salaries of professors and administrators. For many public universities, they've had to raise tuition because states have cut funding—down, on average, by about 16 percent from a decade ago.

School officials point out that they offer financial aid, and a large proportion of students don't actually pay full price for college. But for many students, the aid still isn't enough, and they have to take out loans to supplement it.

After graduation, it can take them years to pay off their debt. A 2017 study of Wisconsin universities found that it takes about 20 years on average for graduates to pay off a bachelor's degree.

**\$1.6 Trillion**  
TOTAL U.S. student loan debt owed by 44.7 million Americans

**69%**  
PERCENTAGE of college students in the class of 2018 who took out loans

Entry-level jobs often don't pay enough for recent graduates to make much of a dent in their loan payments. After Roman Long, 25, graduated from Framingham State University in Massachusetts in 2014 with about \$50,000 in student loan debt, he had to work 80 hours a week at three jobs and move back in with his mom in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

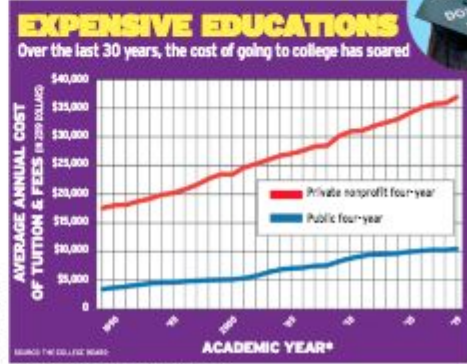
"Having student loans of \$800, \$1,000 a month was really intimidating," he says. "That's what people pay in rent. It's a lot of your budget when you're first getting out of college."

### Tuition-Free College?

The soaring price of college has become a big issue on the campaign trail, with the Democratic candidates for president sparring over the best way to handle it. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts,

and Sen. Kamala Harris have proposed student loan forgiveness and commutation for all student loan debt. Sen. Warren has suggested community college for low-income students. Sen. Harris argued that the federal government should offer the same benefits if they didn't exist. The Trump administration's other policy proposals include student loan forgiveness for those who serve in the military, and a plan to offer the same benefits if they didn't exist.

While the federal government has offered to forgive up to \$10,000 in student loan debt for those who serve in the military, the Trump administration's other policy proposals include student loan forgiveness for those who serve in the military, and a plan to offer the same benefits if they didn't exist.



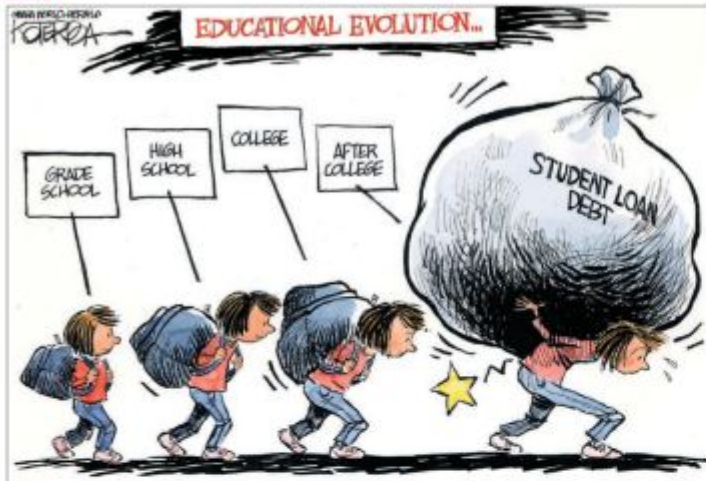
\*Year indicates the start of the academic year.

Don't read this article, just look at the features.



The subtitle expands on the title and gives more detail.

ECONOMICS



# Drowning in DEBT

Today's college students are graduating with more student loan debt than any generation before. Can anything be done about it? BY JOE RUBIN

When she was a senior at High Point University in North Carolina, Britany Genthomme dreamed of renting an apartment and living on her own after graduation in 2017. Instead, she had difficulty landing a job in her chosen field, communications, and had to move back into her parents' home in Milford, New Hampshire, for three years

so she could try to make a dent in the \$65,000 she borrowed in student loans. Genthomme, now 24, says living with her parents made her feel "like my life was on hold. I didn't feel like an adult." She's far from the only college graduate saddled with debt. About two-thirds of seniors at four-year colleges are carrying student loans. In 2017, the average was more than \$29,000, according to the Institute for College

Access and Success, a nonprofit group advocating affordable higher education. That's up from \$13,000 in 1996, when adjusting for inflation.

"This generation of students is the most debt burdened ever, and it's a huge problem for them," says Melissa Baradanan, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, who specializes in banking law. "I do think you're going to have a generation of students whose main concern, instead of finding a partner they love and coming up with a career, they have this huge part of their psychological and emotional toll being about the servicing of these debts."

**The Soaring Price of an Education**  
Americans spend more on college than almost anyone else in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But college in the U.S. didn't always cost so much. Thirty years ago, average tuition and fees for a public university

were less than \$5,000 per year in today's dollars. Now the average is more than \$10,000. The cost of attending a private college has also doubled in that time, from about \$18,000 a year to more than \$36,000 today (see graph, below).

At the same time that college tuition has soared, wages in the U.S. have barely risen, after accounting for inflation. That has made it harder for parents to shoulder the tuition by themselves, and students are increasingly turning to loans.

Why has college gotten so expensive? Economists point to the increasing costs of technology, dorms, and other facilities, as well as to the rising salaries of professors and administrators. For many public universities, they've had to raise tuition because states have cut funding—down, on average, by about 16 percent from a decade ago.

School officials point out that they offer financial aid, and a large proportion of students don't actually pay full price for college. But for many students, the aid still isn't enough, and they have to take out loans to supplement it.

After graduation, it can take them years to pay off their debt. A 2017 study of Wisconsin universities found that it takes about 20 years on average for graduates to pay off a bachelor's degree.

Entry-level jobs often don't pay enough for recent graduates to make much of a dent in their loan payments. After Roman Long, 25, graduated from Framingham State University in Massachusetts in 2014 with about \$50,000 in student loan debt, he had to work 80 hours a week at three jobs and move back in with his mom in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

"Having student loans of \$800, \$1,000 a month was really intimidating," he says. "That's what people pay in rent. It's a lot of your budget when you're first getting out of college."

### Tuition-Free College?

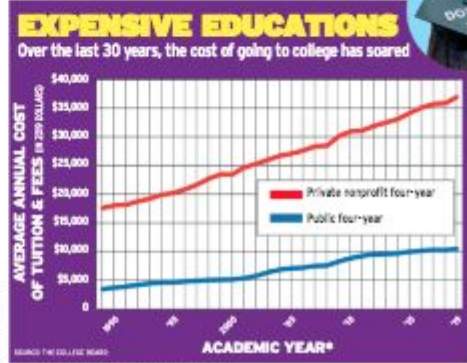
The soaring price of college has become a big issue on the campaign trail, with the Democratic candidates for president sparring over the best way to handle it. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts,

and Sen. Kamala Harris have proposed student loan forgiveness and comm. for all students. Former Rep. Dan Claitor has suggested community college for low-income students. Sen. Cory Gardner began doing math to argue that offer the same if they did it.

The Trump administration's other policy is to let student loan forgiveness be that school's tuition if as much as that there's cap tuition.

While it's GenZ's problem, Genthomme to college. "My loan thinking about a burden to my parents. According to however, it college debt with \$24,000. She's not the only one. And graduation before, market is that near the choice. "Students everything that you'll you'll be a public Kennedy's students to

With reports from Adam Brubaker

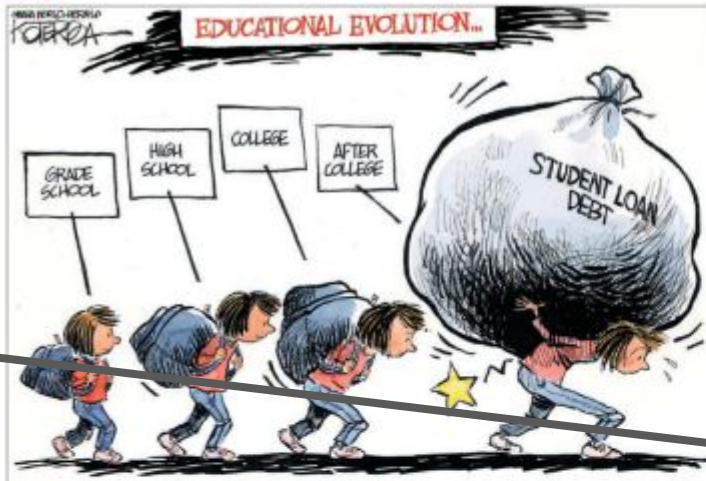




Don't read this article, just look at the features.



The article and ideas are separated into sections by the subheadings.



# Drowning in DEBT

Today's college students are graduating with more student loan debt than any generation before. Can anything be done about it? **BY JOE RUBIN**

**W**hen she was a senior at High Point University in North Carolina, Britany Genthomme dreamed of renting an apartment and living on her own after graduation in 2017. Instead, she had difficulty landing a job in her chosen field, communications, and had to move back into her parents' home in Milford, New Hampshire, for three years

so she could try to make a dent in the \$65,000 she borrowed in student loans. Genthomme, now 24, says living in her parents' made her feel "like my life was on hold. I didn't feel like an adult." She's far from the only college graduate saddled with debt. About two-thirds of seniors at four-year colleges are carrying student loans. In 2017, the average was more than \$29,000, according to the Institute for College

Access and Success, a nonprofit group advocating affordable higher education. That's up from \$13,000 in 1996, when adjusting for inflation.

"This generation of students is the most debt burdened ever, and it's a huge problem for them," says Melissa Baradaran, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, who specializes in banking law. "I do think you're going to have a generation of students whose main concern, instead of finding a partner they love and coming up with a career, they have this huge part of their psychological and emotional toll being about the servicing of these debts."

**The Soaring Price of an Education**  
Americans spend more on college than almost anyone else in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But college in the U.S. didn't always cost so much. Thirty years ago, average tuition and fees for a public university

were less than \$5,000 per year in today's dollars. Now the average is more than \$10,000. The cost of attending a private college has also doubled in that time, from about \$18,000 a year to more than \$36,000 today (see graph, below).

At the same time that college tuition has soared, wages in the U.S. have barely risen, after accounting for inflation. That has made it harder for parents to shoulder the tuition by themselves, and students are increasingly turning to loans.

Why has college gotten so expensive? Economists point to the increasing costs of technology, dorms, and other facilities, as well as to the rising salaries of professors and administrators. For many public universities, they've had to raise tuition because states have cut funding, on average, by about 16 percent from a

School officials point out that they offer financial aid, and a large proportion of students don't actually pay full price for college. But for many students, the aid still isn't enough, and they have to take out loans to supplement it.

After graduation, it can take them years to pay off their debt. A 2017 study of Wisconsin universities found that it takes about 20 years on average for graduates to pay off a bachelor's degree.

**\$1.6 Trillion**  
TOTAL U.S. student loan debt owed by 44.7 million Americans

**69%**  
PERCENTAGE of college students in the class of 2018 who took out loans

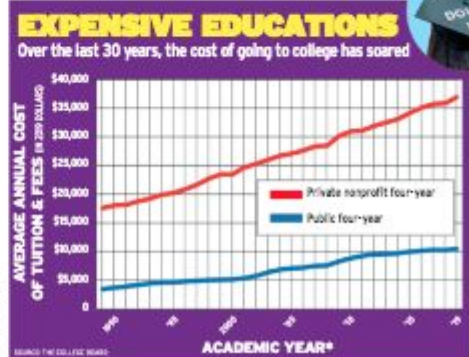
SOURCE: THE COLLEGE BOARD  
FIGURE: LEAH WEISS

Entry-level jobs often don't pay enough for recent graduates to make much of a dent in their loan payments. After Roman Long, 25, graduated from Framingham State University in Massachusetts in 2014 with about \$50,000 in student loan debt, he had to work 80 hours a week at three jobs and move back in with his mom in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

"Having student loans of \$800, \$1,000 a month was really intimidating," he says. "That's what people pay in rent. It's a lot of your budget when you're first getting out of college."

### Tuition-Free College?

The soaring price of college has become a big issue on the campaign trail, with the Democratic candidates for president sparring over the best way to handle it. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts,



\*Year indicates the start of the academic year.

# Evaluate the Main Idea

**Proficient-** Includes only important information, including who, what, when, where

**Basic-** Leaves out the important information, OR includes details from the article

**Below Basic-** attempt with too much, or too little information, or information that is not important

## Learn (continued):

- Use the RACE strategy to write your answer to the questions that follow.


### Answering Questions

**R** Restate the Question

**A** Answer the Question

**C** Cite Evidence from the Text

**E** Elaborate w/ Explanations & Examples



## Practice:

Read “Why the Amazon Matters” on the next slide. Then do the activities below on a piece of notebook paper.

1. Select the correct main idea of “Why the Amazon Matters”.
  - a. Plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen back into the air.
  - b. The Amazon is home to diverse plants that are studied for their potential to yield promising new medicines.
  - c. Deforestation has called attention to the many ways the Amazon benefits life on Earth.
  - d. The Amazon is home to indigenous tribes whose culture and day to day life are dependent on the rainforest.
2. Using RACE, explain why the answer you selected is correct.
3. Using RACE, select one of the incorrect answers and explain how you know it is incorrect.

# Why the Amazon Matters

Deforestation of the world's largest tropical rainforest has scientists and environmentalists calling attention to the many ways the Amazon benefits life on Earth

## ECOLOGICAL

The Amazon is home to millions of animal species, more than 16,000 species of plants, and some 390 billion trees. It covers just 1 percent of the planet's surface but contains 10 percent of all the wildlife species we know of on Earth.

"This is the richest place on our planet from billions of years of evolution of life before humans were around," Yadvinder Malhi, an ecologist at the University of Oxford in England, told NBC. "It's one of the great libraries of nature on Earth."

## ECONOMIC

The rainforest contributes about \$8.2 billion a year to Brazil's economy from products such as rubber, timber, and



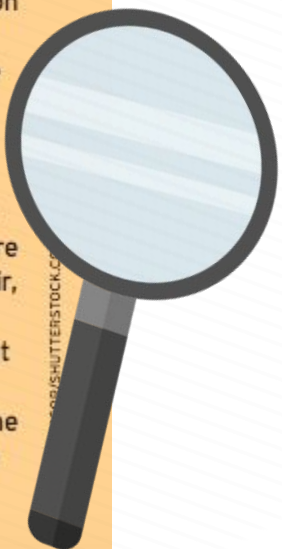
acai—a tropical berry that's now viewed as a "super-food." The diverse plants in the Amazon have also long been studied for their potential to yield promising new medicines. Quinine, a muscle relaxant

that was the world's first effective treatment for malaria, comes from the cinchona trees of the Amazon.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The enormous number of trees and other lush vegetation in the Amazon helps to mitigate the effects of climate change by soaking up huge amounts of carbon dioxide. This happens through the process of photosynthesis, which plants use to generate energy: Plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen back into the air, storing the carbon that allows the plant to grow. Studies estimate that

the Amazon contains 90 billion to 140 billion tons of carbon, which could be the equivalent of 9 to 14 decades of human carbon emissions.



# Practice Answer Key:

*(Answers will Vary)*

- Check your answers to make sure it meets the following criteria:
  - Did you write in complete sentences?
  - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
  - Did you answer the question?
  - Did you support and explain your answer using details from the article

## Sample Proficient Answers:

1. C
2. *The correct answer is choice “C” which talks about the benefits of the Amazon because it can be found in the subtitle of the article (look at slide 6 for reference). The subtitle helps to give the reader a brief overview of the text before they start reading the passage further. The subheadings also back up the idea that the Amazon is beneficial by talking about the ecological effects occurring, the economic contribution, and how the Amazon positively affects climate change.*
3. *Answer choice “B” is not correct because it is a detail in the passage rather than a large idea in the text. In the passage there are three subheadings, one of which is “Economics.” Answer choice “B” can be found under this subheading, talking about one of the benefits of the rainforest. The economy, and the fact that plants can be used to create new medicines are just one of the three components that makes up the main idea.*

# If you want to learn more...Additional Resource:

- [Amazon Deforestation Video-BBC News](#)

