In 2005, correspondents of the *New York Times* contributed essays on the growing class issues of the United States in the book, *Class Matters*. These essays prove that Americans have an immeasurable amount of angst caused by class issues. David Leonhardt in his essay, “The College Dropout Boom,” sheds light on the fact that low-income students are dropping out of colleges at an unprecedented rate. He finds that only 41% of low-income students entering four-year colleges graduate within five years. Low-income students, unlike their high-income peers, do not have abundant financial resources. Many low-income students must take time off from school to work or must be part-time students as well as part-time workers. Simple tasks such as buying books, school clothes, and gasoline become huge obstacles that low-income students must overcome. High income students, because of the resources that their family has equipped them with, are able to efficiently complete college without having to worry about money to the extent low-income students do. Because of this efficiency, 66% of high-income students entering four-year colleges graduate within five years.

It cannot be overlooked that low-income students do not usually come from backgrounds that value a college education. Children who come from high-income families most likely have two active parents who let it be known to their children that continuing one’s education is an essential part of growing up. However, children who come from low-income backgrounds, in most cases, do not have parents who push them to complete their college degree. Also, children of low-income families do not usually have parents who went to college and therefore do not have their experiences to draw on. On the other hand, children of high-income families have parents who went to college and who can help them with the many difficulties that may arise when obtaining a college degree. Leonhardt finds that children from low-income families feel as though they are wasting time by going to college. In his essay, he follows one particular man who drops out of college because he wants to get a job and be closer to family. His parents, neither of whom attended college, support him in the decision and tell him to start making money. However, what all of these people eventually find out is that a college education is worth the time and the financial sacrifice. This is proven in the fact that they continue to be low-income families, whereas college graduates dominate the middle and upper classes.