In a few short years every high school graduate is thrust into a big world, alone, where good jobs are hard to come by. If a proper education isn't provided, your adult life will more than likely be harder than most care to admit. A college education is extremely valuable because you will be paid significantly more than those with only a high school level education and you have the power to influence and change others’ lives.

To start off, a college education is extremely valuable because you will make significantly more than those with only a high school level education. In the article “New School Year, Old Story: Education Pays”, it stated that college graduates“… earned about 415 dollars more a week than workers whose highest level of education is a high school diploma.” (“New School Year, Old Story: Education Pays” 63). 415 dollars is three weeks’ worth of grocery bills or half an apartments monthly rent or even the amount they needed to send their kid to college. 415 dollars is the world to some people. Being stuck on the other end of that sentence isn't fun, especially when one knows what could have been done to prevent it. In addition to this, “… at 2.4 percent, the unemployment rate for workers with a professional degree was also the lowest of any education level.” (“New School Year, Old Story: Education Pays” 63) Some experts may say that unlucky high school graduates could very well be caught in that 2.4 percent with more debt than they would have had otherwise. And they would be right. However, the chances are quite literally 2 in 100. Those are some pretty good odds. These are the bare minimum of examples in which it shows how a college education is extremely valuable due to earning significantly more than those with a high school level education.

In addition, a college education is valuable because you have a better chance of positively influencing and changing others’ lives. In the speech “Americas School Children” by Barack Obama, the president stated “Don’t let your family down or your country down. Most of all don’t let yourself down.” (Obama 71) This is Obama's way of telling his audience that an education isn't just affecting a single person. It’s affecting everyone around that person. Also as described by Barack Obama, there are so many options as far as job opportunities go. He swears that “… no matter what you want to do with your life, I guarantee that you will need an education to do it.” (Obama 68) Anyone can achieve their dreams while effectively influencing others, but it can be accomplished with much more grace and finesse if one has a college education. Nelson Mandela once stated, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” (Mandela 61) It will put the power graduates needed to achieve a vast variety of goals, and consequently positively influence others, in their hands. Mr. Mandela of all people should know this. Some people may say that an education alone won’t empower you to do the things you aspire to do. However, the knowledge, wisdom, and social experience that is gained through attending and graduating college will.

In conclusion, a college education is not only valuable, but essential because you will be paid significantly more than those with only a high school education and you can have a better chance to positively influence those around you. Imagine all the places you will go, all the things you can do, all the people you will positively influence with a college education. Do yourself a favor and look more into the option of college today. I promise that you won’t regret it.