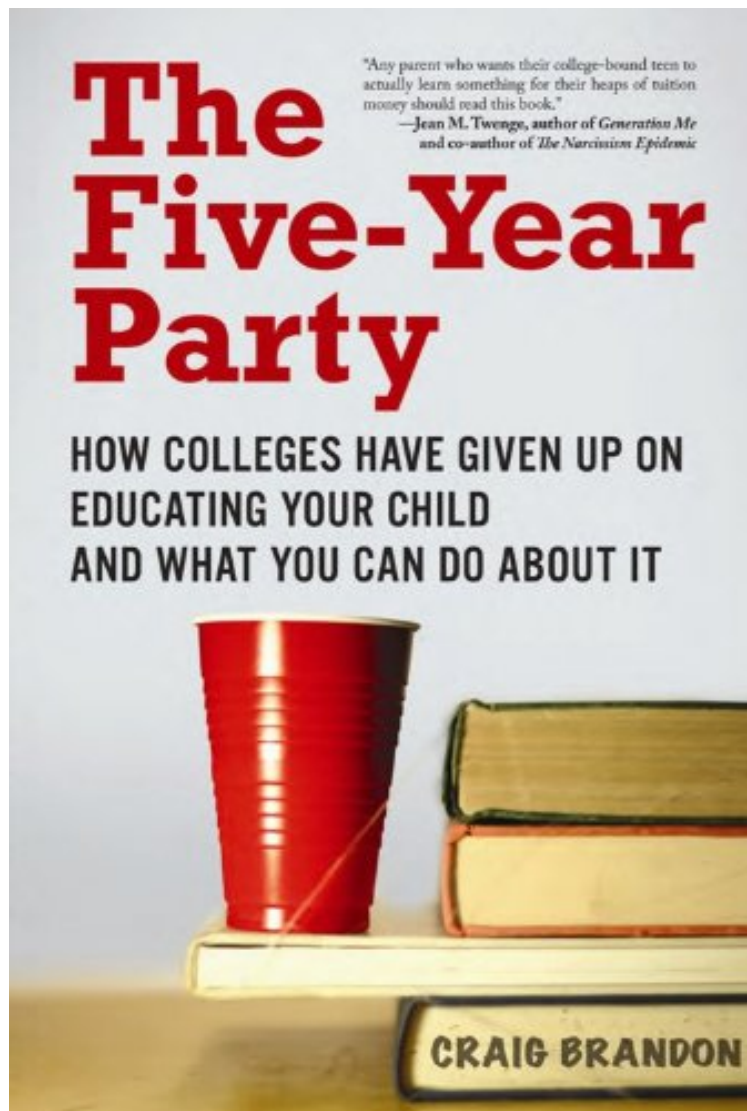


[Free read ebook] The Five-Year Party: How Colleges Have Given Up on Educating Your Child and What You Can Do About It

The Five-Year Party: How Colleges Have Given Up on Educating Your Child and What You Can Do About It

Von Craig Brandon

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2010-07-20 Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-07-20 File Name: B003ZSHUCA | File size: 39.Mb

Von Craig Brandon : **The Five-Year Party: How Colleges Have Given Up on Educating Your Child and What You Can Do About It** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Five-Year Party: How Colleges Have Given Up on Educating Your Child and What You Can Do About It:

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Opening Von Dr. Bojan Tunguz The troubles that the higher education as a whole is finding itself in have been finding increasingly featured in the media and books in recent years. The exorbitant rise in tuition and other expenses, the ballooning college debt that has recently passed one trillion dollars, and the increasing irrelevance of college education in the modern workplace have all received a lot of attention lately. However, most of the accounts that I've come across focus on "good" schools - top tier or close to top tier institutions that have a lot of name recognition throughout the US and the World. In "The Five-Year Party" Craig Brandon exposes us to an even more dysfunctional world of lower-ranked colleges and universities that are considered educational institutions now in name only. What he reveals is, to put it mildly, quite shocking. I've had the fortune to be educated and to teach at some fairly well regarded schools, and that experience has largely determined my view of US colleges and universities. To be sure, all of those schools, and the higher education in general, have their share of problems. However, even at the least academically challenging place that I was affiliated with the vast majority of students do get a pretty good education, and education is still (thankfully) understood to be the core purpose of institutions. I was frankly shocked to find out that many of the lower rung schools are nothing more than glorified diploma mills, with little or no academic standards, and with unscrupulous practices that are designed to take as much money out of students as possible. In this world "retention" becomes a key concept, and the academic standards and integrity are quickly sacrificed to this overarching goal. The title of this book refers to the segment of the higher education known as "party schools." We've all heard that term, and most of us have a vague idea of the kind of places that it refers to. However, I would have liked to have it clearly defined from the get-go, and not to relegate the definition to one of the appendixes. I also wish that the author had included voices from administrators and faculty from many of the colleges that he talked about in the book. It is obvious that they would have had a very different take on many of the issues discussed here, but the inclusion of their voices would have given more overall credibility to this book. The book is very well written and thoroughly researched. It is filled with interesting and instructive examples, as well as very useful and actionable advice for future students and their parents. If you or someone you know is doing research on potential colleges to attend, you MUST read this book. It is an indispensable cautionary work.

Kurzbeschreibung Colleges look much the same as they did five or ten years ago, but a lot has changed behind the scenes. While some mixture of study and play has always been part of college life, an increasing number of schools have completely abandoned the idea that students need to learn or demonstrate that they've learned. Financial pressures have made college administrations increasingly reluctant to flunk anyone out, regardless of performance, although the average length of time to get a degree is now five years, and for many students it's six or more. Student evaluations of professors often linked to promotion and tenure decisions have made professors realize that applying tough standards, or any standards, only hurts their own career progress. For many professors, it's become easier and more rewarding to focus on giving entertaining lectures and to give everyone reasonably good grades. The worst of these schools are the "subprime" colleges, where performance standards and accountability have been completely abandoned. Students enjoy a five year party with minimal responsibilities while their parents pay the bills. These schools' investment decisions (first-class gyms and dining centers) are all geared to attracting students that want to have a good time, and their brochures all emphasize the fun aspects of the college experience there are very few pictures of students actually studying or in class. And after graduation, former students are frequently unable to find work in their chosen fields, thanks to their schools reputation with employers, and unable to afford the payments on sizeable student loans. The subprime colleges, which "teach" a significant percentage of college students, are only the tip of the iceberg. All colleges, even the most elite, have moved in this direction to some extent. If you are a parent sending your child to college, The Five-Year Party will give you critical information you need about what is really happening at your child's college, and what you can do to ensure help your child gets a real education.