

Activity 14 Why Don't All Students Study Hard at School?

Directions. Read the *Handy Dandy Guide* and the mystery. Read the clues assigned to your group. Be careful. While all the clues are correct, only some are *useful* in solving the mystery. Decide which clues are most relevant to solving the mystery. Use the clues and one or more of the ideas from the *Handy Dandy Guide* to figure out a solution to the mystery. Write your solution.

Handy Dandy Guide

1. People *choose*.
2. People's choices involve *costs*.
3. People respond to *incentives* in predictable ways.
4. People create *economic systems* that influence individual choices and incentives.
5. People gain when they *trade* voluntarily.
6. People's choices have consequences that lie in the *future*.

The Mystery

Most people know that higher levels of formal education go along, on average, with higher incomes for both men and women. People who complete high school, for example, earn more income than people who do not. People who complete a year or two of college earn more than those who do not. People who complete a college degree earn more than those who do not.

Yet many high school students seem to care very little about their education. Many choose not to study very hard. Some even drop out of school.

Since the link between education and income is well established, why do some high school students disdain education?

The Clues

1. High school students in Europe spend more time reading than American students do.
2. A public opinion poll revealed that many high school students said that they could study harder in school.
3. Many high school students work at part-time jobs.
4. Some American high school students do study hard and perform at high levels.
5. The direct cost of going to college—tuition, board, and books—has been increasing.
6. Many high school students will be admitted to college despite mediocre grades.
7. Working harder—increasing study time, attending class regularly, doing homework—almost always results in improved grades.
8. Employers rarely request high school transcripts or attendance records.

Record your solution and explain it briefly here:
