

NAME: _____

The Value of Education

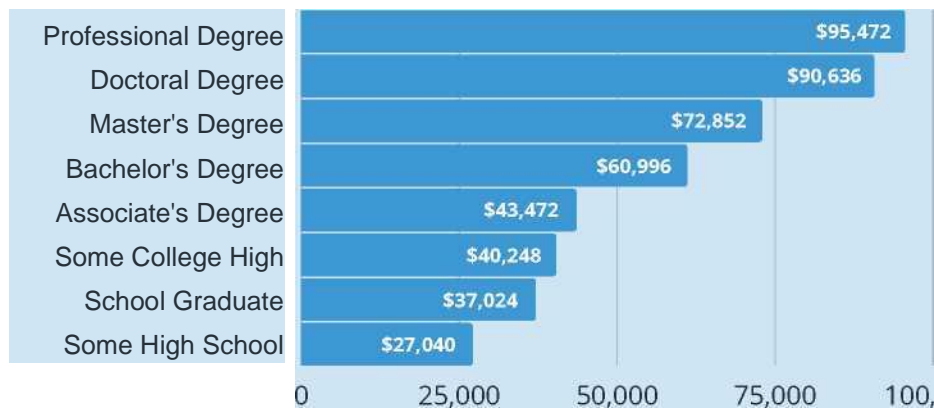
You can make much more money by earning a college degree!

Directions: With your partner read through the information and answer the five questions. You can help each other with the questions, but each of you must fill out your own sheet.

At the turn of the 20th century, American working life was different. Only a minority of adults had a high school diploma. But by 1975, full-time workers with a bachelor's degree had 1.5 times the annual earnings of workers with a high school diploma. By 1999, this ratio had edged up to 1.8. As our society has continued to evolve, **education has become the best way to professional success:** pursuing a degree is the best way to receive training, gain expertise in a given field, and even guide you in making choices about your career.

Today, a formal, focused education is an essential. Employers have increasingly used diplomas and degrees as a way to screen applicants. And once you've landed the job you want, your salary will reflect your education. On average, a person with a master's degree earns \$35,828 more per year than a high school graduate—a difference of as much as 96.8%!

AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES AND NON-GRADUATES



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017

1. How much more money can you make if you graduate high school and then graduate with an associate's degree? _____
2. How much more money can you make if you graduate high school and graduate with a bachelor's degree? _____
3. How much money can you make if you only have some high school? _____
4. What is the salary difference between a person who holds a bachelor's degree and someone who holds a master's degree? _____
5. What level of education would you like to attain? Why? _____