

**University of Lethbridge**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Economics 3710**  
**Economic Analysis of Canadian Public Issues**

Suggested Term Paper Topics

1. Does  $2 + 2 = 4$ ? How do students who transfer from colleges perform in university? Do students who attend four-year programs have different labour market outcomes than those who transfer from colleges?
2. Would it be cost effective to better integrate our two-year colleges and four-year university programs? E.g., like the CEGEP model in Quebec?
3. Why have student debt loads been increasing? Is higher education that much more expensive than it was in the past? Are students simply trying to maintain a better lifestyle today because they have higher expectations?
4. Is a higher education worthwhile in terms of higher earnings? What is the distribution of earnings for those with a university degree (say) compared to those with other (lower?) types of education?
5. Is attending private primary or secondary private schools a wise choice in terms of the educational and monetary outcomes? Compare to those who attend public schools.
6. In Canada, French immersion programs are popular (in Quebec, it is English immersion). What are the educational and labour market outcomes of students who attend these programs versus those who do not?
7. It is often argued that early childhood interventions are the most cost-effective way of improving children (i.e., waiting too long is more costly). Assess this argument and explain which of these interventions work best (if any).
8. Why have tuition costs been increasing much faster than the rate of inflation in the past few years? Are faculty paid too much? Are administrators? Are student facilities becoming too fancy (and therefore too expensive)?
9. What are the best policies to follow to increase the number of students attending PSE?
10. Getting into PSE is one factor, graduating is another. What are the best policies for ensuring that those are admitted end up graduating?
11. Are too many students pursuing a university education? Might some young people be better off in other non-academic endeavours?
12. What are the effects of working during school? Is there an optimal amount of hours (this could be zero)?