

Quotable quotes/ student essays on Idaho young adult poverty

Youth misperceptions about what it takes to make it.

185 - "Picture this – you're between 18 and 24 and eager to be on your own, but when you get out there, you don't know the first thing about surviving on your own."

154 – I also think the media has a great deal to do with the high poverty rate. They push us out into the world with ideas of kids having a good time drinking with friends, driving fast cars, wearing cool clothes, and taking expensive trips. They show people having a good time, but not the money needed to generate the fun. With Idaho's low paying jobs, money is hard to save, so teens get sucked into living for the moment, not for the future.

158 - People think they can get a job right out of high school that will be a good enough source of income without going to college. Though this may be true in some cases, after someone gets married, has children, and has to provide a home and life for their family, they come to realize that their \$20,000/year job won't cut it. They often go into debt just to buy essential living materials.

153 – Day after day I hear my friends complain about not having enough money, yet they constantly talk about moving out on their own and taking the huge leap into independence. I often wonder if they stop to consider the numerous financial obligations they will be faced with. I have witnessed first hand friends and peers who are living on their own, and I know that it is not easy. Poverty-like conditions are not uncommon, such as an empty fridge or gas tank.

164-A – When you get out of high school it doesn't mean that you are out of school; it's just taking a higher step. Young adults don't realize that!

183 - Teenagers know that they want money, but they do not know the best way to get it.

156 – "Most young people cannot support themselves; they do not have the know-how or the financial assistance to live on their own. For eighteen years they do not pay for rent, food, or education, but now they find that they must pay for every aspect of their lives: from their home and meals to their school and books, and hardly have the money to buy anything else."

College expenses

162 – Low income college students who have no outside support, struggle through college and deal with years of debt from loans and other forms of payment. During their experience, they live way below the poverty line and some drop out of college because the struggle was too tough to deal with.

169 "The price of college tuition and the other costs that accompany it, such as a computer, books, or other supplies, looms over my head."

169 "Being eighteen has brought many things to my attention, and increased financial and personal responsibilities are just a few. As I look forward to the next few years I am filled with conflicting emotions of anxiety and excitement. I look at the cost of tuition, books, and living

costs that come with attaining a higher education through a university and it worries me. While I hope that the combined assistance of grants and scholarships will be enough to move me through college, I must realize that in all actuality, I will inevitably go into debt. I hope to educate myself against the deceiving gimmicks of credit card companies and the overwhelming temptation to squander my earnings on juvenile wants such as expensive stereo systems. In doing this, it is my goal to enter into debt only so that I can obtain a quality education and career training so that once out of college, I might keep myself from going into poverty.”

Importance of education

176 A thorough education is the best ammunition to fight poverty.

159 “In today’s society going to college is a must.”

173 “Education seems to be the key to ending the poverty struggle in Idaho, and I for one am ready to be a statistic now and avoid poverty later in life.”

170 “Going to college isn’t cheap, and I know that I don’t have all the resources I will need to complete my college education, but I am willing to risk going into poverty while I am a full time student.... With a college education I will be able to avoid poverty for the rest of my life.”

167 – “Idaho’s high poverty rate for young adults ages 18-24 is a reflection of poor education.”

Medical care

168 – The reason that the poverty rate is so high in young adults in Idaho is because people don’t have jobs that offer medical care and insurance. Eventually they get sick and have to pay out of their pockets for the doctor bill and then go into debt, which puts them in a poverty situation..... I believe all people deserve to live pain free and not have the burden of debt for something they have no control over.

Credit and loans

174 “The credit card companies aim their products directly at college students wishing to take care of their own money issues rather than ask a parent. Once a student is tricked into carrying a card, it is a tough job to stay above the plentiful bills and have money to eat at the same time.”

Family formation

176 – The old fashioned mentality appearing from Idaho’s agricultural base is very apparent in the morals and values of the state. Many young people choose to marry and start families in their late teens and early twenties. Oftentimes one parent chooses to stay home with the children while the other parent works. The poverty level rises with each additional family member, but the number of wage earners remains the same. This results in a Catch-22, and also contributes to the percentage of young people living under the poverty level.

184 – Young adults are too excited about getting into a relationship. They do not realize the financial responsibility that comes with getting married. Many young adults are trying to pay for college and a spouse at the same time. Young adults are also jumping into parenthood too fast.

161 – Many young adults have children before they are financially secure. They do not realize the financial and emotional responsibilities involved with raising a child and being a parent. Many people believe they can pay all expenses by earning a minimum wage salary. In today's society it is essential to have a productive career.

151 “In Idaho it is socially acceptable to get married before careers and financial security are established. Careers and financial security cannot be established without college.”

173 “Many couples get married at a much younger age in Idaho, and begin a family very early. However these same people that are raising families are only qualified to get lower paying jobs because they lack the necessary education for many higher paying jobs. Consequently as the number of people in the family is increasing, the amount of income flowing into the household is not.”

Low wages.

153 - If Idaho cannot attract higher paying jobs, raising the minimum wage would make a huge impact.

165 --“With a minimum wage of \$5.35 an hour it is extremely difficult to acquire the amount of money needed to save a person from going into debt....In Idaho there are very few large corporations or businesses where young people can climb their way to the top.”

180 – “What the state needs to realize is that there aren't enough jobs out there and people who have good jobs are paying for the ones who don't. I think that if we had more jobs then the poverty rate in Idaho would drop significantly.”

152 – “Nearly three in every ten Idaho young adults live in poverty. For almost half of them the prospects of escaping poverty are far from promising. They don't have a job, aren't going to school and don't have a degree past high school.”

176 -- Because we are caught in the middle of a transition to a more modern society, yet we still cling to the traditional pre-modern mode of functioning, we lack the major benefits from being completely one or the other. We cannot live directly off of the land or depend on our own businesses entirely, yet we do not possess the large corporations that provide skilled, high paying jobs.