

# The End of the University

Dale J.  
Stephens





A young man with short brown hair, wearing a light green t-shirt, khaki pants, and grey sneakers with green laces, is sitting on a stack of various textbooks. He has his hands clasped in his lap and is looking directly at the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored surface. Overlaid on the image are several text boxes: a large blue box with the title 'HACKING YOUR EDUCATION', a yellow box with a subtitle, and a blue box at the bottom with the author's name and affiliation. The books he is sitting on include titles like 'Computer Systems Organization', 'FEMINIST THEORY', 'Microeconomics', 'Research Methods for Social Sciences', 'GENETICS', 'Differential Equations and Integral Calculus', and 'Chemistry'.

# HACKING YOUR EDUCATION

ESCAPE LECTURES, SAVE THOUSANDS, AND  
HUSTLE YOUR WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

DALE J. STEPHENS  
FOUNDER OF UNCOLLEGE.ORG

I thought you had to be: **genius**  
**motivated**  
**privileged**

I was proven **wrong.**



**UNCOLLEGE**



[uncollege.org/program](http://uncollege.org/program)



**But why do you do this?**











**“Never let my schooling  
get in the way of my  
education”**

**- Mark Twain**



**Homeschooling**

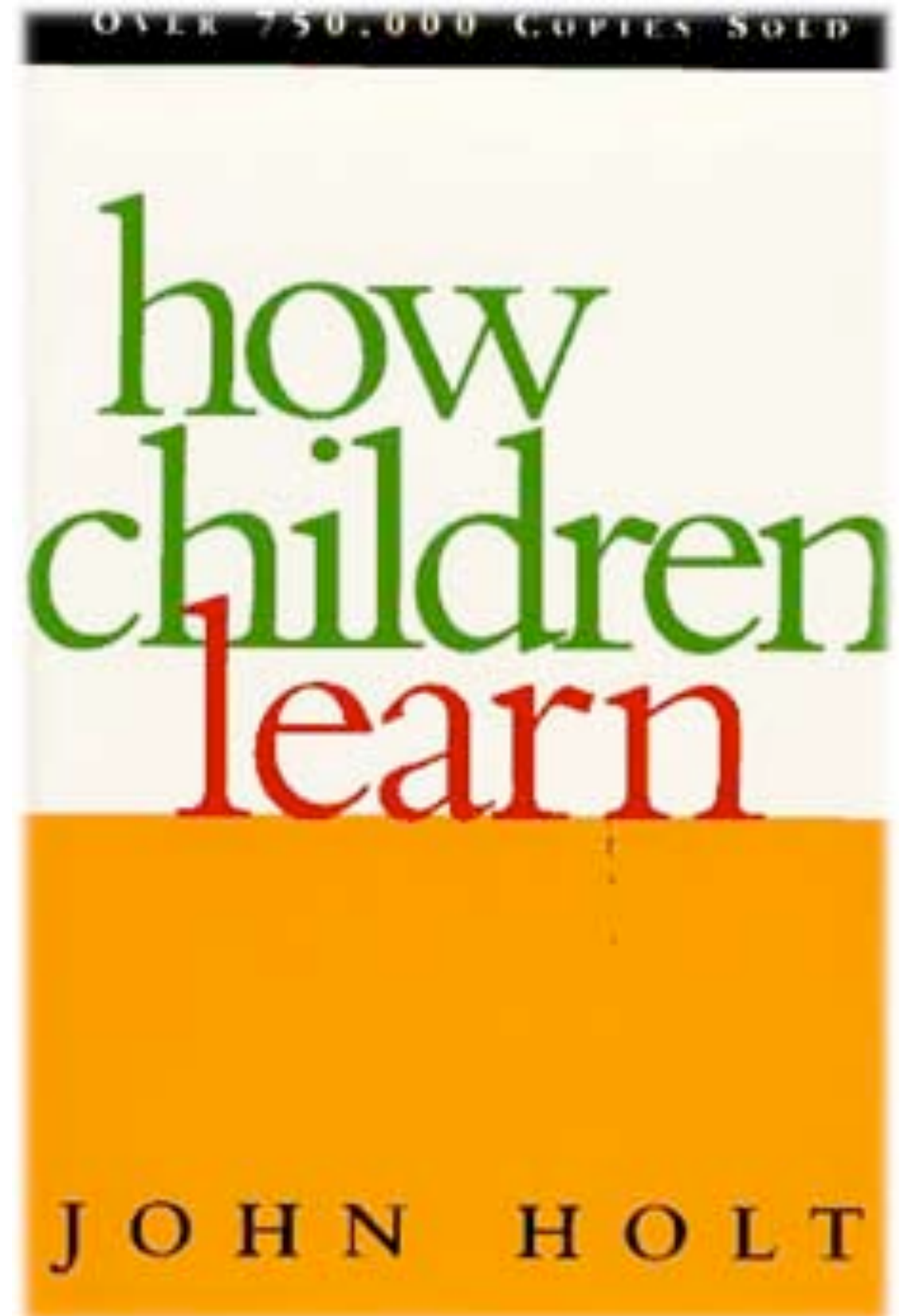
**≠**

**Unschooling**

**unschooling**



none of these: **teachers**  
**tests**  
**grades**  
**curriculum**  
**bells**





SUMMERHILL

**3 million copies 1960-1973**





Chapter Test

3 How many flat surfaces does this solid figure have?  
Flat surfaces: \_\_\_\_\_  
Draw the shape that is the flat surface of a cube.

4 Draw the shape that is the flat surface of a cube.

5 Circle the rectangle of a cube.

the sphere

How many flat surfaces does this solid figure have?

Flat surfaces: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the shape that is the flat surface of a cube.

Circle the rectangle of a cube.

Do we trust people's innate  
capacity to be curious?









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**WINTERS COMMUNITY LIBRARY:**  
**YOLO COUNTY LIBRARY**  
708 Railroad Avenue, Winters, CA

**IMPORTANT DATES:**  
Oct. 24 - Nov. 12 Library closed for move  
Nov. 13 Dedication and Preview Tours 2pm - 4pm  
Nov. 14 OPEN FOR BUSINESS  
1-5pm Open House and Celebration

For more information call Yolo County Library  
(530) 866-8025 <http://yolocountylibrary.org>

All are welcome  
during open hours

Extended Hours (School in Session)

Monday	8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am - 5:00 pm

For a complete schedule of hours visit our website

HARRIS TRUSTEE  
TERESA SACKETT









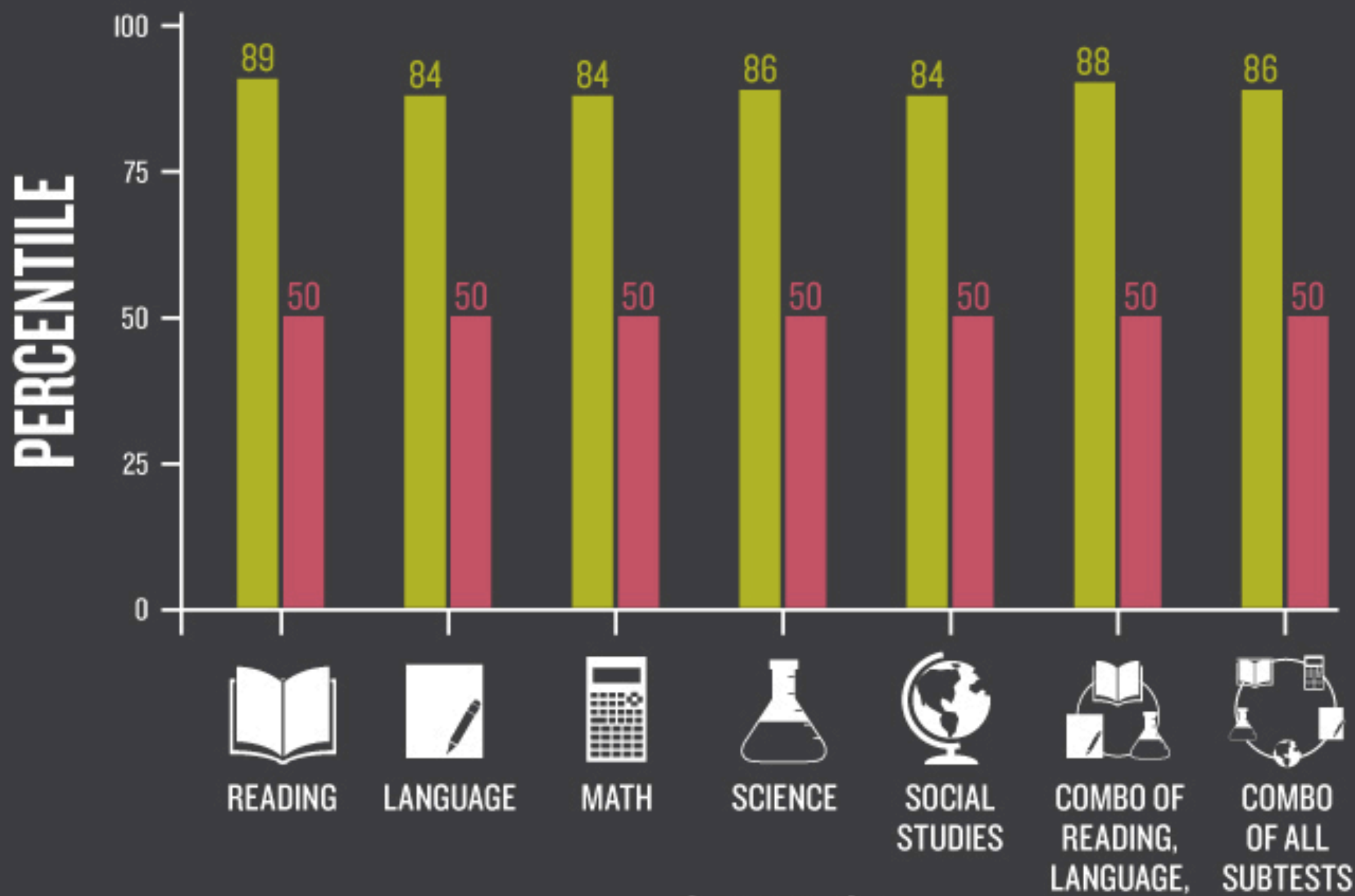


**Unschooling > Public School**

# NATIONAL AVERAGE PERCENTILE SCORES

When it comes to test-taking, homeschooled kids consistently out-perform public schools.

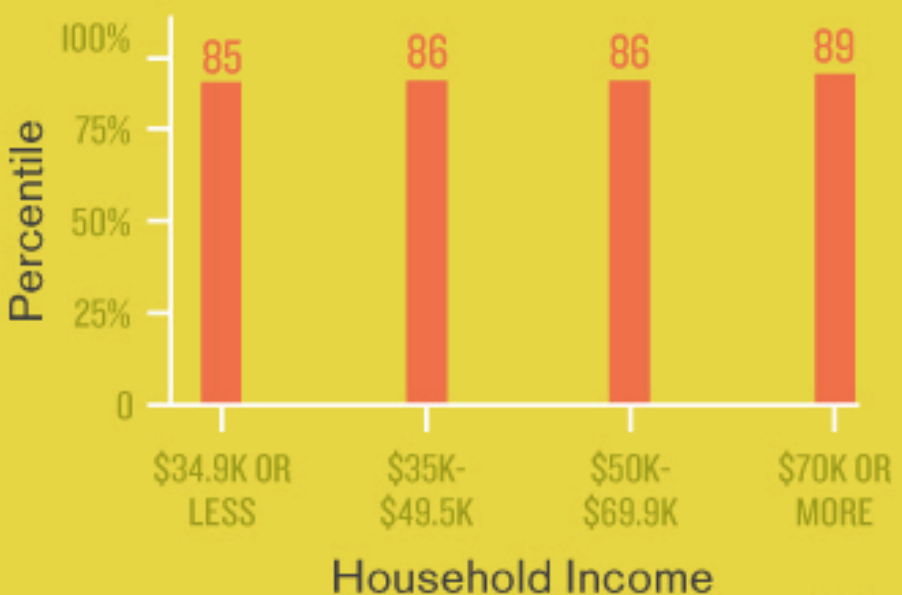
**HOMESCHOOL**      **PUBLIC SCHOOL**



# HOMESCHOOLERS ARE LESS AFFECTED BY EXTERNAL FACTORS

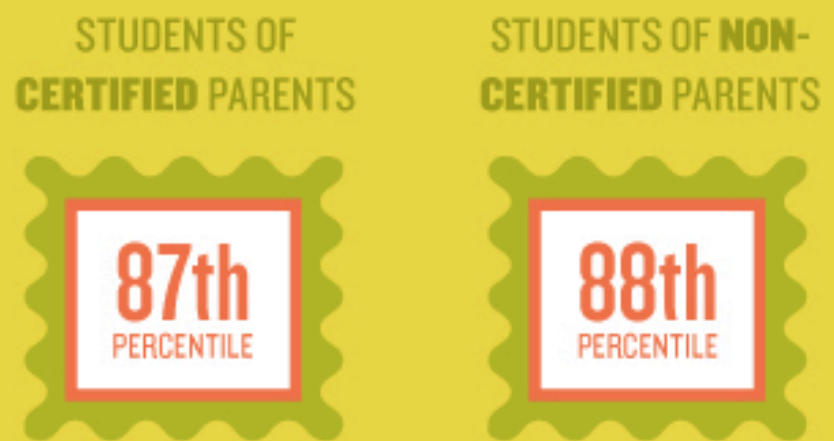
## HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

Their scores are largely **unaffected** by household income:



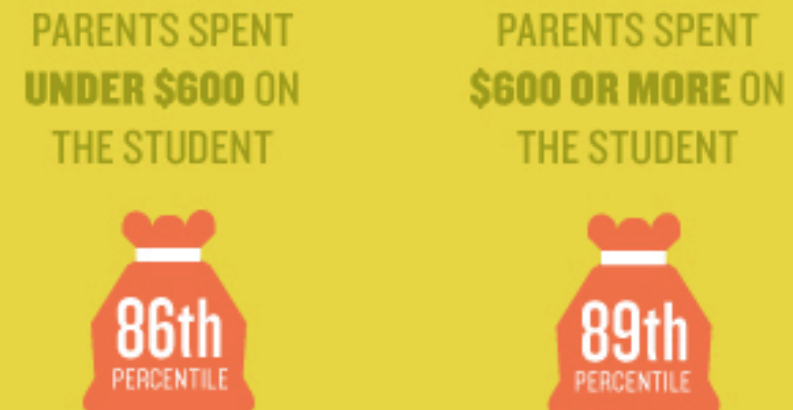
## CERTIFICATION:

They **did well** whether or not their parents were certified teachers:



## PARENTS' SPENDING:

They succeeded **no matter** how much money was spent on their education:





**Not only did I learn  
the subjects, I learned  
how to learn.**

**(meta-learning)**

**But despite all that, I still . . .**



# HENDRIX

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YOUR  
HENDRIX  
ODYSSEY

## Odyssey

*Your Hendrix Odyssey: Engaging in Active Learning* is the hands-on, experiential approach to learning pioneered at Hendrix. Pierre Urisanga's personal Odyssey began in Musanze, Rwanda.

[< Read More >](#)

### INFO FOR FUTURE STUDENTS



### NEWS & EVENTS



#### Summer Service

*Hendrix students participate in mission trip to Philadelphia*

[Read the Full Story >>](#)

**#1** "Up-and-Coming" Liberal Arts College  
—U.S. News & World Report

**#12** "Best Undergraduate Teaching"  
—U.S. News & World Report

**1** The only private, independent college in Arkansas that shelters a Phi Beta Kappa chapter



**There were two main  
problems with  
college.**

**1. It cost \$45,000 per year. (and even so only 50% graduate and only 50% of those with degrees under 25 are using their degrees)**

**2. At college there was no meta-learning. We were really excellent sheep.**





NO VEHICLES BEYOND THIS POINT

NO VEHICLES BEYOND THIS POINT



A photograph of three young people smiling and looking to the left. The person in the center is a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark t-shirt with a necklace. To his left is a young woman with glasses and dark hair, also smiling. To his right is a young man with reddish hair, partially visible. The background is dark with several bright, out-of-focus lights, suggesting an indoor social setting like a bar or club.

**What about the beer and girls?**

source: Tyler Driscoll



**I prefer guys and champagne.**



source: Tyler Driscoll





source: vgm8383



# Gap Year

[Learn More & Apply](#)

**Somewhere along the  
line I told people I  
was writing a book.**



A young man with short brown hair, wearing a light green t-shirt, khaki pants, and grey sneakers with green laces, is sitting on a stack of various textbooks. He has his hands clasped in his lap and is looking directly at the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored surface. Overlaid on the image are several text boxes: a large blue box with the title 'HACKING YOUR EDUCATION', a yellow box with a subtitle, and a blue box at the bottom with the author's name and affiliation. The books he is sitting on include titles like 'Computer Systems Organization', 'FEMINIST THEORY', 'Microeconomics', 'Research Methods for Social Scientists', 'GENETICS', 'Chemistry', and 'Differential Equations and Integral Calculus'.

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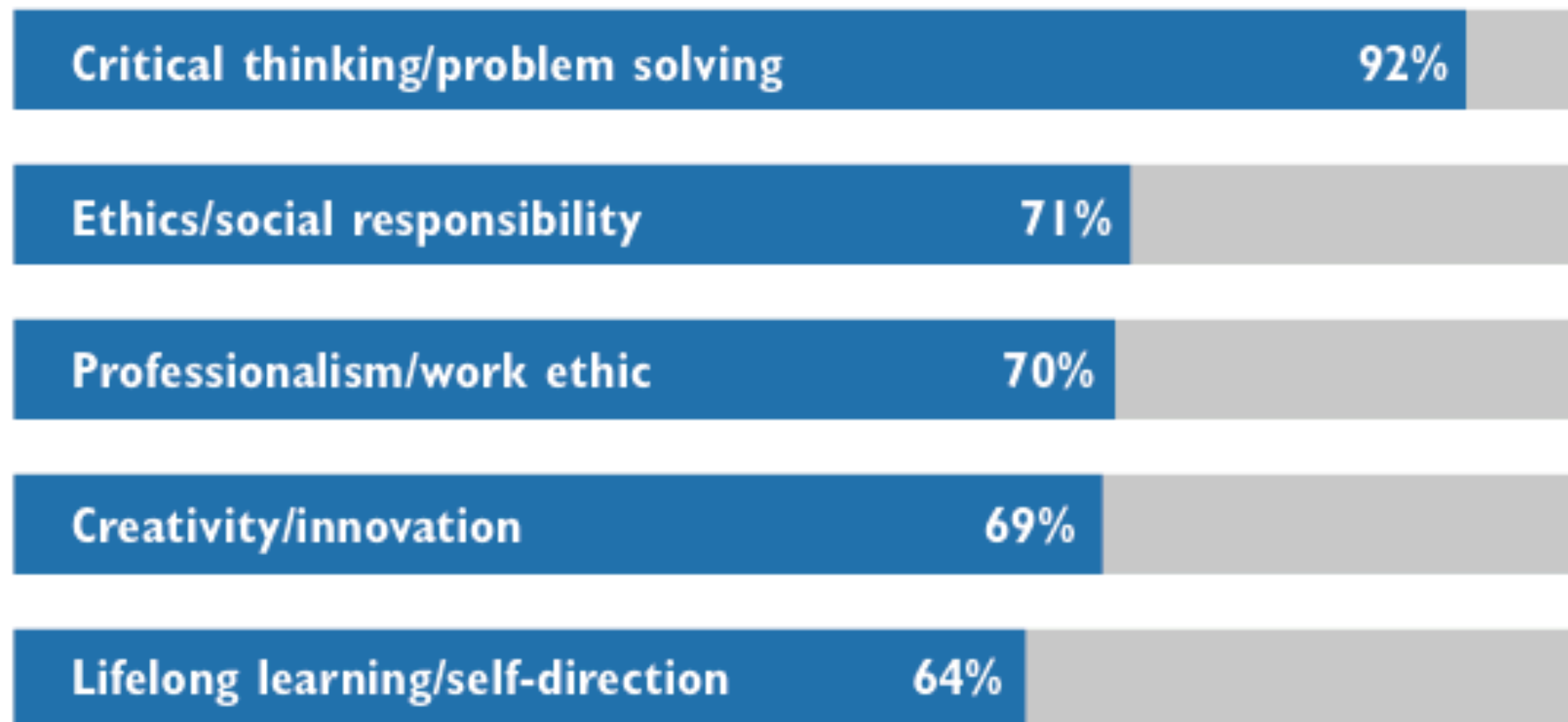
**The book started a  
movement. And we  
started Gap Year.**



Why don't  
schools teach  
**meta-learning?**

## “HIGH NEED” FOR APPLIED SKILLS

Percentage of employers reporting that they have a “high need” for training programs in these skills



Source: *The Ill-Prepared U.S. Workforce*, 2009. The Conference Board, Corporate Voices for Working Families, American Society for Training and Development, Society for Human Resource Management.



Let's help people  
**learn how to learn**



**9**  
**YEAR**  
**R**



## What Will I Do On My Gap Year?

✓ Learn how to learn.

✓ Find mentors.

✓ Share a meal with thought-leaders and entrepreneurs.

✓ Live abroad for three months.

✓ Fundamentally challenge your assumptions.

✓ Build a personal website and your personal brand.

✓ Build a portfolio of academic and professional work.

✓ Find an internship and work in the real world.

# The Four Phases

## 1. Launch

The Gap Year starts with a ten-week residential program called the Launch. During this time you will live with nine other Fellows and an UnCollege House Manager in a Gap Year House. The houses are currently located in San Francisco, with more locations coming in 2014.

You will participate in sessions, workshops, challenges, roundtables, and discussions, all designed to help you develop meta-learning skills, design the rest of your program, and set yourself up for success beyond the program. You will be introduced to the UnCollege network of mentors and be assisted by our team in creating your own learning plan, planning your Voyage, and securing an Internship.

## 2. Voyage

The second phase of the Gap Year Program is called the Voyage. You will spend three months living in a country where you haven't lived and do not speak the language, doing things you've never done, and getting outside of your comfort zone. You could spend the time working on an organic farm in Spain, distributing aid in a refugee camp in Jordan, or teaching classical music in China – whatever you think will challenge you and help you grow. The UnCollege team will help you to organize your voyage and give you \$2,000 towards your expenses.

## 3. Internship

After your Voyage, you will spend three months as an intern at a company or organization that matches your learning objectives. It could be a giant tech company like Facebook or Google, a tiny startup in Silicon Valley, or a charity distributing aid in Africa. The aim is to gain real world work experience that will make you stand out to future employers or investors. Drawing on our network of contacts in Silicon Valley and elsewhere, the UnCollege team will help you secure an internship with a company or organization that is looking for dynamic young people like you.

The internship does not have to take place in San Francisco or the United States. You may choose an organization anywhere in the world to complete your internship. You will continue to receive support and

## 4. Project

Finally, the biggest challenge of all – create a real project that someone pays you to complete! The last phase of the Gap Year Program is the Independent Project, leading to a tangible deliverable. This could be anything from an exhibition of your photographs or a published book, to a business plan or even a functioning company. The aim is to demonstrate your talents and stretch you to the limit – and to give you something major to show off when interviewing or raising funds.

The project does not have to take place in San Francisco or the United States. You may choose to work anywhere in the world to complete your project. You will continue to receive support and guidance from the UnCollege team.



**Over 200 applications for first class**

**10 people from 6 countries**

**Opening 2nd house in January**

**In last two weeks 140+ apps for Summer**

# FELLOW PROFILE: ZELIA

- Zelia is from Cupertino, California. A year after leaving High School she was still unsure about college, so she applied for the UnCollege Gap Year Program.
- She has spent the last twelve months working on the Obama campaign in Aurora, Colorado as an Early Vote organizer; interning as a lab assistant at Svaya Nanotechnologies in Sunnyvale, California; and teaching English in Madrid, Spain.





**What does \*this\*  
mean for you?**

**1. You've got  
competition.**



**2. Ya might wanna  
think about changin' ;-)**

# **What an unschooler thinks you should do:**

- Get students out of the classroom
- Link curriculum to the market
- Do away with tenure
- Stop grading students, make them build a portfolio
- Copy your local gym





Thank you for listening.

Find out more at  
[uncollege.org](http://uncollege.org)

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on Twitter

[dale@uncollege.org](mailto:dale@uncollege.org)