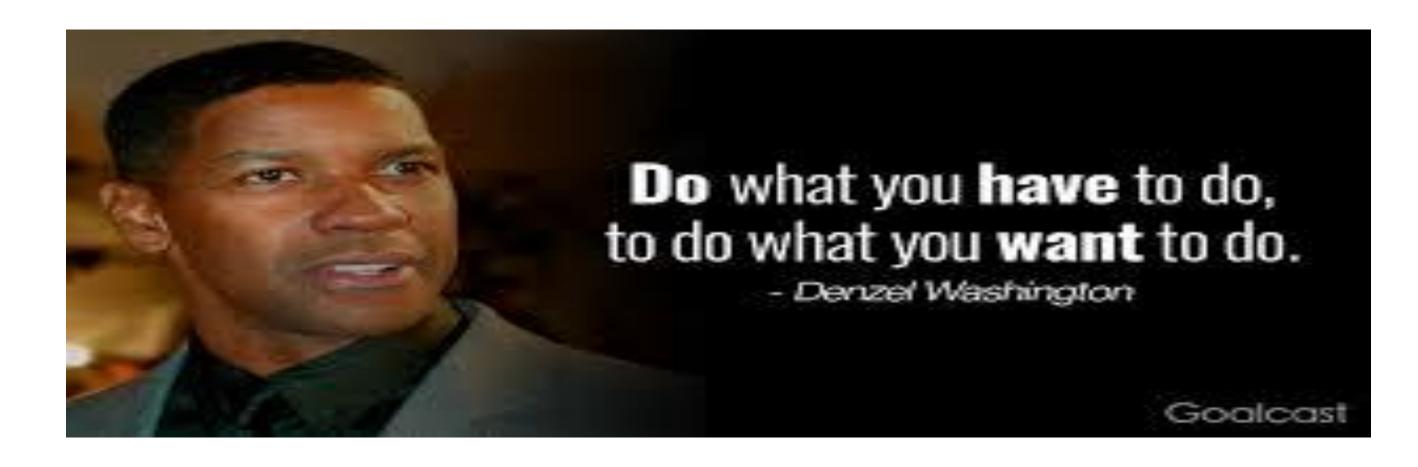# Improving Graduation Rates

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Introduction:

Our research question is: How can we motivate students to stay in school? We chose this because we felt like the rate for dropouts were going up and we wanted to know why and how we could help. The type of research we did was a survey.

The problem that we are addressing is the dropout rate of students in Ohio and how to lower it. This is a serious issue because if students drop out of school then they won't get the proper tools they need in life to be successful. This can affect the crime rate and give schools a bad reputation for not having an adequate amount of graduations. We have programs like "Say Yes to Education" in our district and the CAS program at our school. These programs help Cleveland students by giving students free tuition for college and by having one hour dedicated students participating in activities that they are interested in, like Poetry or Model UN.

Facts:

Students dropout for money sometimes due to not having the tuition to go to some high schools and end up finding other ways to make money. Or they do it because of family issues and or boredom of the school system (https://issues.org/derek/).

In 2010, Ohio transitioned to a new method of calculating the graduation rate. The federal government set this rate to allow for comparisons between Ohio and other states. (Ohio Department of Education).

Observations:

We talked to the principal of Campus International High School, Ameer Kim-Mallawany about the graduation rate. We found out that the four year graduation rate is 74.6%, and it is predicted to rise from that in the entire state of Ohio. He also showed us that 60% of four year students graduate and 40% of five year students end up graduating.
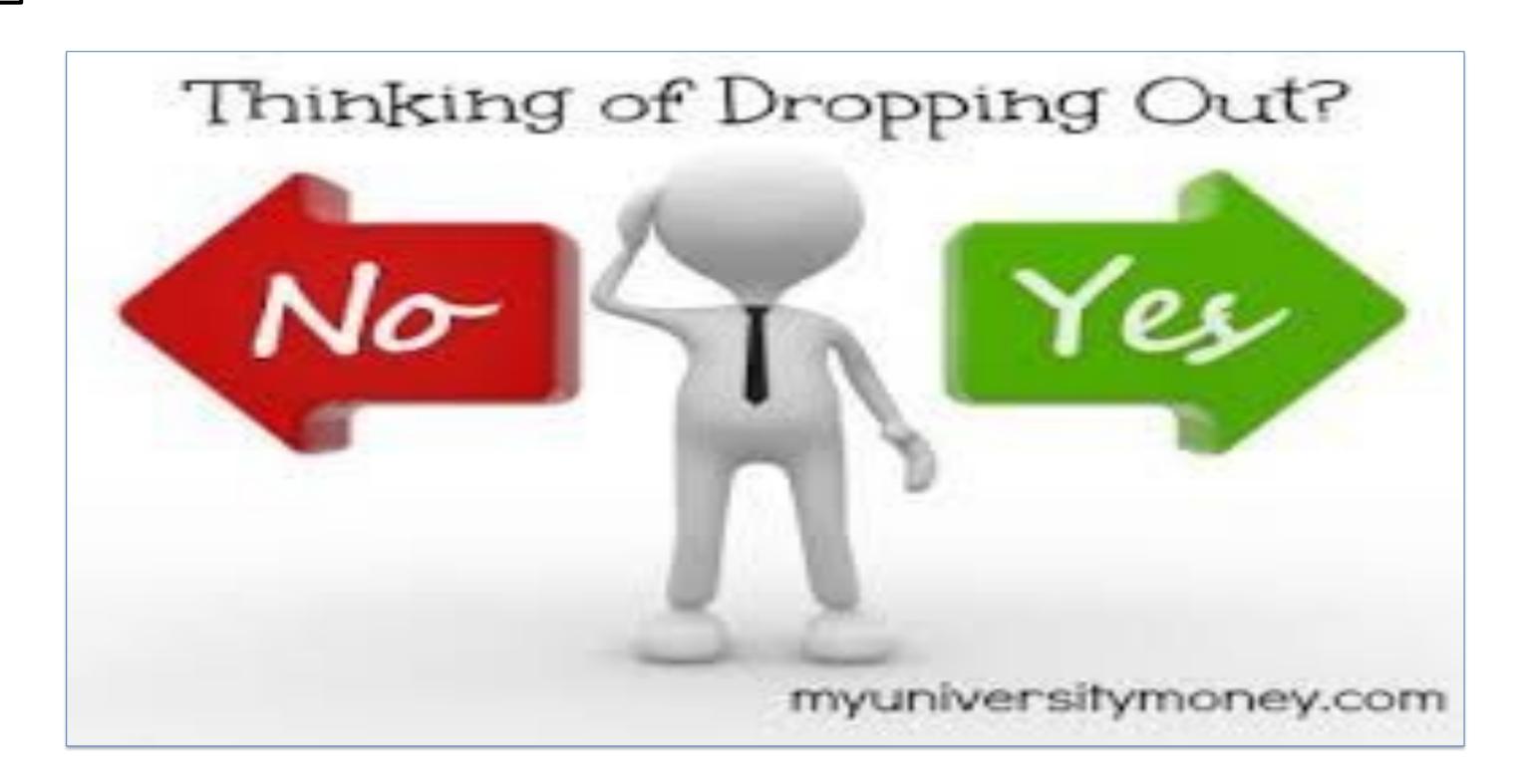

Survey:

The survey was a good choice to help us with the answer to our research question because it helps us see if people have a personal problem with dropping out or if it's really a problem with the schools. The group we expected to give the surveys to were people who have dropped out of high school and grown up to become adults with jobs. The type of information we want from our participants are the reason as to why they thought of dropping out and why they eventually did it. We wanted them to tell us what the problem was, whether it was personal or there was something actually wrong with the school that they were in. We put questions into the survey that asked them their gender and their age is. We also asked questions that relate to their lives, like how their parents and/or family member reacted to the decision of dropping out, and why did they made the decision to drop out.

Recommendations:

If you're thinking about dropping out, we suggest that you, talk to a person that you trust, or a teacher that you trust, to get a better understanding on how you can get help or support. You can also ask a student about their dreams and things they want to do in life then you tell the students what their dreams require and just be a constant provider of support.

Resources:

https://schoolleadersnow.weareteachers.com/decrease-dropout-rate/

https://www.nap.edu/.../understanding-dropouts-statistics-strategies-and-high-stakes-te...

http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Report-Card-Resources/Graduation-Rate-Component
https://issues.org/derek/

https://www.goalcast.com/2017/02/27/top-15-most-inspiring-denzel-washington-quotes/