

BOX 3.7

Research About Education and Economic Power

Even a simple investigation of research showing relationships between literacy and financial life trajectories can build motivation and create a shared context for the effort the class will undertake as they engage with challenging texts. Students might be interested in the following research linking education and earnings.

Today's jobs demand greater literacy skills than ever before. By 2018, 63 percent of all jobs will require some college.

Reading and writing proficiency is a key to success in higher education and the workplace. Over 85 percent of jobs in four of the fastest growing occupations will require postsecondary education.

Source: The Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, 2011.



Education pays off in higher median yearly wages:

- \$22,900 high school dropouts
- \$32,700 high school graduates
- \$38,300 some college or an A.A. degree
- \$54,000 bachelor's degree
- \$69,800 professional degree

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010.



Across a working lifetime (age twenty-five to sixty-four), a person's earnings increase dramatically with education level. Earning a four-year college degree is almost twice as valuable as earning a high school diploma, for example.

- \$ 973,000 high school dropouts
- \$1,304,000 high school graduates
- \$1,547,000 some college/no degree
- \$1,727,000 A.A. degree
- \$2,268,000 bachelor's degree
- \$2,671,000 master's degree
- \$3,252,000 doctoral degree
- \$3,648,000 professional degree

Source: The Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, 2011.