

THE OP FALLACY

DEFINE: *Fallacy*
AN ERROR IN REASONING

FACT: *OP stands for Overall Position.*

FACT: *Ops range from OP 1 (highest) to OP 25 (lowest). They are used for tertiary selection and appear on your Tertiary Entrance statement.*

FACT: *Your OP tells you your rank order in relation to all the other eligible Year 12 students in the State.*

RUBBISH: My OP score from school will dictate my success.

RUBBISH: All employers check my OP score to determine if I'm right to get a job.

RUBBISH: An OP score will affect me for the rest of my life.

RUBBISH: If I don't get a high OP score my opportunities are very limited.

RUBBISH: If I don't study at UNI I am a failure.

RUBBISH: Once my OP score is determined there are not many pathways to get to where I wish to go

RUBBISH: If I get a low OP all others will consider me a failure and my parents won't love me quite as much.

RUBBISH: To be considered 'one of our gang' with my friends I must have received an OP similar to or better than them

RUBBISH: I have done 12 or more years at school (2/3rds of my life) and I got an ordinary OP score. What a waste of time and I have amounted to nothing.

RUBBISH: I will never be able to compete with others in the workplace or get anywhere near the success that my parents have in their careers.

RUBBISH: My brother/sister received a better OP than I did. Boy now I really am the failure/loser of the family. I am a dropout.



The Facts vs. the Rubbish

As the blog sites run rampant with comments and thoughts about the impending OP scores, it's time to challenge some mindset patterns held by students, parents and teachers about the effect a good OP score will have on a person's future life.

Firstly, let's get clear that your OP result is what it is. It's a number that can indicate an overall position in comparison to all others of the same age or grade (12). That OP score is used to compare where you stand in terms of gaining a place at University to study a desired course. Plus it is recorded on your Tertiary Entrance Statement.

For those with high and very high scores, 1 point may be crucial in gaining the spot you so desire. HOWEVER: those high numbers are a minority in our schools and tertiary institutions. Our society needs these exemplary brains to study, research and keep pushing the boundaries of science, medicine and technology.

more on **2**



Not everyone wants to go to University. Not everyone is made for University. Not everyone responds to the rigors of work and study required to meet the high expectations of an industry or the lecturers of University. So in the OP world what happens to these people? What happens if a student feels like a failure because of a lower than expected OP score? After all, many parents have expectations that their child will go to Uni. Many schools have prided themselves on creating an atmosphere of expectation and the teachers refer to little else.

Well the people that don't go to UNI, by choice or because they didn't get entry, are often people whom challenged the repetition and authority that is the school system. They are often labeled dropouts, lazy, troublesome, disinterested, slack, poor workers, distracting, maybe even dumb, stupid, ignorant, arrogant, and hopeless or any number of things.

And as the Director of a Business college I write this to encourage all those who have been labeled at some stage, to say "bring it on".

My message is not to encourage any labeling or abuse, but just to say that it happens and accept it, as you go on your way to becoming brilliant. Get this clear; you don't need a Degree in anything to be a massive success. The laziest and most arrogant people are often the most successful and perhaps the richest if that's what they wanted. If you don't agree, do yourself a favour and research people like Richard Branson, Bill Gates, The Google boys, Steve jobs, mother Theresa, Michael Jordan, Michael Jackson or any number of inspiring individuals that have left an impact without going to or finishing university. The list will surprise you.

Around 3 years ago I researched some statistics in Australia and America to find a trend about success, study, University, society attitudes towards these things and

results. Let me share some of those findings with you and then I would like to address the RUBBISH points that I outlined in page one of this document.

The reason for my research into this was observing the stress my own children were under during their final school years due to the expectations of the school, society, us as parents and their peers and then analysing their language and self-talk that we had bestowed onto them, because according to their beliefs a good OP score would shape the rest of their lives. Here goes:

1. **Only between 20-30% of students actually go to University.**
2. **84% of people that commenced study in a particular field NEVER went on to work in that industry.**
3. **The average HECS bill is slightly over \$20,000 upon leaving University.**
4. **80% of millionaires around the world DID NOT receive an education higher than grade 10 level.**
5. **72% of Australians dislike the job they are in.**
6. **Many of the 20-30% will gain a University qualification after the age of 21 because it's easier to gain a spot as a 'mature age' student.**
7. **Depending on the course you select a University charge can be upwards of \$12,000 per year and the cost of a college course will be around \$4,000 per year.**
8. **A college qualification at Diploma level can account for the 1st year of uni so long as it's related. This could save you over \$8,000.**

Point 1.

Even though schools and society show and portray an expectation that most people will go to University, the facts say that only 20 odd percent actually go straight into a course.

Point 2

If 84% of people don't work in the field they originally start study in, this is inevitably a waste of time and money at some stage. It also indicates that many young people are unsure of the field they may enjoy later in their life. This is OK and very common. Just try to consider, (when thinking or speaking to others that ask "what course are you going to do"?) do I think I would like working in this industry when I'm 40 years old? Whatever you do though, don't choose a job or an industry because someone else works there or you think that your parents or friends or relatives would like to see you doing that job. Many young people do this and it matters what YOU think. NOT what others think, including parents. Your parents ultimately want to see you happy.

Point 3

A HECS bill may be the only way to complete a University course while you don't have a job and \$20,000 is a reasonable payback option. But don't be fooled. I spoke to a James Cook university representative last year that quoted \$86,000 to complete a Journalist degree. How long would that take to pay back?

Point 4

80% of millionaires across the world don't have a higher than year 10 education. This speaks for itself. While money may not be your motivation, that's OK too. But the world will always judge peoples success in dollar terms and money will always be the vehicle that allows us to change the world. Whether it's donating money to a hospital or providing famine relief in Africa, without it, you become a slave to it because someone else has it. Be it the government, banks, welfare or other.

Point 5

A stat. recently run by 'business forum' showed that around 72% of Australians dislike where they work or their job. Regardless of why, perhaps people or boss or pay or work times, those same people are frustrated due to a lack of some control or choice. We are always in need of workers, and some others are just not cut out to be business owners. However 72% is a staggering amount of people to spend a work life unsatisfied with where they are or what they do. I would challenge at least half of those people to make a change or at least look around. Maybe even further study in a desired area would give them not only the skills but also the confidence to look around at what is possible for them. Don't get bogged down. We have only 1 lifetime and every moment we spend dissatisfied is a moment we don't get back. Back yourself and your choices.

Point 6

This is a stat worth considering. Doing a UNI course after 5 or 6 years in the workforce. At least by then you may have a clearer idea of your path. It's also easier to gain entry at this age too.

Point 7

University course costs are exponentially higher than college courses. For years the University group has been making large profits, thanks to society's mindset to steer our kids to UNI because that what they 'should' be doing. The need for young people to be accepted has driven them into high priced courses that 'hey hey' 84% of don't even work in when finished. This is not to undermine the high standards of lecturers or facilities by the way.

Point 8

As a different option you may consider doing a college qualification that would save you time and money. For instance if you did a business certificate or Diploma, you would receive some credits towards a similar field course at Uni. This would also save money at least for the first year.

CONSIDER THIS:

Bill Gates dropped out of college in his 1st year and went on to offer Microsoft to the world when he was 19 years old. Gates equivalent to our OP score ranked him 1590 out of 1600 students.

Richard Branson was kicked out of UNI for being a 'trouble maker'. His 1st attempt at a newspaper failed

There are countless names of successful people that have not followed the expected pattern of society, yet have grown and built lives that really make a difference to others in the world.

AND FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING WITH A LOWER THAN EXPECTED OP FOR THIS YEAR...

My OP score from school will dictate my success.

RUBBISH: What you think of yourself and how you treat others always has and always will be more important than an OP number, even at a workplace.

All employers check my OP score to determine if I'm right to get a job.

RUBBISH: perhaps for the first job or interview: but then it comes down to experience. What you have achieved, the way you speak, your confidence and mindset.

An OP score will affect me for the rest of my life.

RUBBISH: NO WAY, unless you let it. Ask a parent or older relative how many times they needed to show their school certificate when looking for work. Ask a teacher.

If I don't get a high OP score my opportunities are very limited.

RUBBISH: I would suggest your opportunities actually increase. If you don't/cant study your planned path or ideal job (at 18 ha-ha) then you need to think at other options. Hence your world of opportunities opens up markedly. Give it a try. Ask yourself "If I couldn't study law, what other things could I do"? Entertain the thought. Your options are incredible.

If I don't study at UNI I am a failure.

RUBBISH: REALLY? According to whom - your friends, your enemies, yourself, your teachers? I know your family will NEVER consider you a failure (even though you think they do) Does it matter what others think anyway? You will never be liked by everyone.

Once my OP score is determined there are not many pathways to get to where I wish to go.

RUBBISH: Hmmm? Is that what someone else told you? Look for yourself. You can still get to whatever track you want just using a slight variance from what you expected. You've left school now; it's time to use your mind. You are more than very capable. Many older people wish they had the knowledge you have right now.

If I get a low OP all others consider me a failure and my parents won't love me quite as much.

RUBBISH: CRAP, parents will love you the same if not more as every day goes by. They are what you will always be able to rely on. Oh BTW the people I mentioned earlier like Gates, Branson and Jordan were also called failures at one time. Be like them OK!



To be considered ‘one of our gang’ with my friends I must have received an OP similar to them or should have beaten them.

RUBBISH: I promise they will have their own problems like the rest of us. They will not let on what they might be nor is it any of your business. Get on with your life, have a purpose and always realise you will need people to help you fulfill your success potential. Your ‘GANG’ may not be together long anyway after school. That’s what happens.

I have done 12 or more years at school (2/3rds of my life and I got an ordinary OP score. What a waste of time and I have amounted to nothing.

RUBBISH: like I said earlier there is someone out there a little jealous they don’t have or know what you have got. Yes, you may amount to nothing if you spend time thinking instead of doing. It just might be that those 12 years was the universe holding back a genius that needed time to ripen. Perhaps the world needed those 12 years to be ready for what you now have to offer. Go kick ass!

I will never be able to compete with others in the workplace or get anywhere near the success that my parents have in their careers

RUBBISH: Maybe! And why would you wish to compete with others in your workplace? You can’t possibly be better at being them than they are. Likewise no one is better at being you than you. Luckily you won’t get near the success that your parents have had. They want much more than that for you. To achieve what you are going to achieve, there is no one better equipped. Don’t aim at the heights of your parents. You are capable of MUCH MUCH higher than that

My brother / sister received a better OP than I did. Boy now I really am the failure / loser of the family. I am a dropout.

RUBBISH: You don’t believe that, I don’t believe that and neither do your parents. Time to stop feeling sorry for yourself and go and create something special. There will be no 2nd chance by the way. Look after yourself, be kind to others, challenge traditions, and always ask why. That’s all there is to it. Listen to yourself more than anyone else.

FINALLY:

You do not need a bunch of letters after your name to be someone. There are many people with a Business degree who have never had the guts to own a business. It’s fine to study and take many years to complete your qualification. You **MUST ACT** though – with passion and purpose and belief in yourself, doing everything with a target in mind.

Be someone we can’t ignore; check out the video link below.

YOU CAN’T IGNORE THEM.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX9GTUMh490&feature=related>