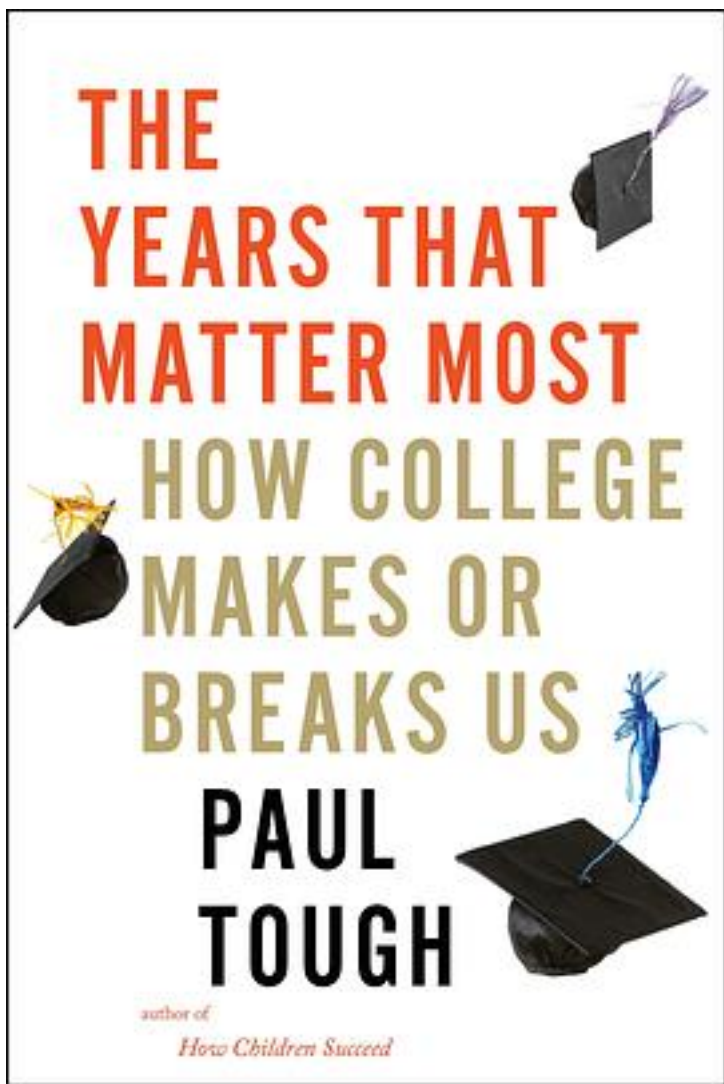


The Years That Matter Most



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The best-selling author of *How Children Succeed* returns with a devastatingly powerful, mind-changing inquiry into higher education in the United States: Does college work? Does it provide real opportunity for young people who want to improve themselves and their prospects? Or is it simply a rigged game designed to protect the elites who have power and exclude everyone else? For many of us, our doubts and resentments about higher education live side by side with an appreciation, even a yearning, for the life-changing personal transformation that a college education can provide. In these pages, you will meet young people making their way through this system, with joy and frustration and sorrow: deciding how and where to apply, cramming for the SAT, braving a strange new campus, negotiating changing family relationships, and trying to find the resilience to recover from setbacks and downturns. You'll encounter the individuals who, behind the scenes, make higher education go: an SAT tutor hacking the test and his students' stressed-out brains; College Board officials bending the facts to protect the brand; a calculus professor turning potential drop-outs into math majors. And you'll see the many shapes that college in America takes today, from Ivy League seminar rooms to community college welding shops; from giant public flagships to tiny, innovative experiments in urban storefronts. *The Years That Matter Most* will shake you up, it will inspire and enrage you, and it will make you think differently about who we are as a country - and whether the American dream of opportunity and mobility is still worthy of our faith.

作者介绍:

PAUL TOUGH is the author of *Helping Children Succeed* and *How Children Succeed*, which spent more than a year on the New York Times hardcover and paperback bestseller lists and was translated into twenty-eight languages. He is also the author of *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*. He is a contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine and a regular contributor to the public-radio program *This American Life*. You can learn more about his work at paultough.com and follow him on Twitter @paultough.

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标签

大学

社会学

教育

美国

高等教育

育儿

社会科学

教育社会学

评论

Higher education是人生中非常关键的几年，identity formation的时期，也是获得upward social mobility的机会。很多研究表明，一旦进入了大学，不管什么背景的学生都会获得同样的机会提高lifetime income，但究竟谁能进入大学、怎样才能进入大学还是有非常大的不平等。这本书写得很不错，既有大量personal story又有经济学家的研究，提供很多数据，又能在感情上打动人。

推荐给所有家里有孩子要上大学的家长读一下。作者做了大量的调查研究，用了大量的数据阐明了大学本科教育已经不是向上攀爬的阶梯了，即使是，也有着其局限性。有些孩子可能连阶梯都摸不到。印象最深刻的还是“Getting An A”那一章，那是最为贴切的，给孩子有着良好的指导意义。只是家里的青春期孩子并不以为然。在开车的路上，我试图把这个章节的中心思想转述给她听，就引起了一个晚上的沉默。书里说了，微积分不难学，只要努力用功和正确地讲课。但是态度不正确，那就不知道什么时候能够改正了。

应该是年度最佳了

文笔很不错，有一种感同身受的痛楚。

看好些地方，很多细节也是很relate；虽然书中的人读书的时间比我读本科都晚个几

年，很多这些措施当年还没有实施。作为美国大U本科三年半毕业生，现在回想起来也有很多moments是hell in multiple levels. 研究生去了另外一个大U当了几年的TA，见识了系里各种power play...也是对美国高等教育有了完全不同的认识...回想起本科也是觉得too young too naive...

Information asymmetry that cause all the differences between the students.

[有声书]

又来强烈安利啦！职业作家出身、追踪多名背景各异的学生采访多年、引用近年很火的基本教育相关的畅销书（包括前不久读过的《The Privileged Poor》和《Lower Ed》），作者从很多角度来阐述、分析美国高等教育的堪忧现状。比较新颖的内容包括：大学招生中难以平衡的学生质量和学费收入（这里面听起来可有学问了，尤其是统计上的预测），大学为了提高毕业率所做的努力，SAT考试带来的不公平，高中成绩与SAT对学生大学学习状态的预测准度，大学申请过程中家境的影响的具体例子，低收入家庭背景的学生面对的学业家庭精神上的困境...不得不感叹作者选取个例的丰富性：个体差异性大，而且每个人的故事都是多面的，一个问题刚解决就又来了一个问题。结尾呼吁社会共同努力将大学教育变成public good。

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书评

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