Name:_____ Placement:_____

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You have 50 minutes to read the article below and write a 300-word essay. Answer the question at the bottom of the page.

The Dark Cloud of Student Debt

by Bernard Sanderson

Many American students cannot afford a university degree without borrowing money for tuition. With the rising cost of college tuition, young people are graduating with a large amount of student loan debt. It can be difficult to pay back these loans because young graduates start their careers in entry-level positions with modest salaries. What can be done to help young adults with high student loan debt? Some argue that the government should forgive these debts & } } l P Œ } µ ‰ o o ^ v oš ^ š } µ ^ š v] š u µ >] š š Z } v } u Ç _ was recently formed by a New York attorney named Robert Applebaum. The group believes that middle class Americans are financially stressed by student loan debt. Consequently, they are unable to participate in a consumer-driven economy. By forgiving student debt, the government can keep hundreds of dollars per month in the bank accounts of middle class Americans, who would then spend more money and help grow the economy. In contrast, others argue that the cost of debt forgiveness is too high, and the question of who will pay for this program has no clear answer. Should the government pay back the loans with taxpayer funds, or do the debts just disappear, costing banks and lenders billions? Brian Kumnick, an analyst at FindLaw, Á } v Œ • ^ Z } Á ~ } Œ] (• o o š Z } • o v Œ • Á } µ o P š } u š Z š Á Z] o] š [• v]] (} Œ } Œ Œ } Á Œ • U š Z P } À Œ v u v š v v } forgiveness program and banks should not be forced to take a major loss. The problem demands a solution for young adults burdened by student loans today and also for current and future college students facing an ever-increasing price tag for a university education.

Q: Should the government help people pay back their student loans? Use the information from the article to support your view.