Warm-up questions

1) Is higher education important?
2) What percentage of people earn university degrees in Taiwan? How many people opt for going straight to work?
3) What other post-secondary education options are available for high school graduates in Taiwan?

Vocabulary exercise

1. Significantly ___
2. Poll ___
3. Sharp decline ___
4. Split ___
5. Republicans ___
6. Democrats ___
7. Independents ___
8. Political agenda ___
9. Relevant ___
10. Bias ___
11. Optimistic ___

A. Survey or questionnaire
B. Not associated with any political party
C. Greatly or a lot
D. Sudden and big drop
E. Closely connected or applicable
F. Members of the conservative (preserve) party
G. Members of the liberal (update) party
H. Hopeful about the future
I. A specific set of political goals or ideologies
J. Prejudice or inclination for or against something
K. Divided or separated

Text

Confidence in U.S. colleges and universities has **significantly** dropped. A recent **poll** found that Americans are now **split** on their confidence in higher education: 36% have a lot of confidence, 32% have some, and 32% have little or none. This is a **sharp decline** from 2015, when 57% had a lot of confidence and only 10% had little or none. Confidence has decreased across all groups, especially among **Republicans**. In 2015, 56% of Republicans were confident in higher education; now only 20% are, while 50% have little or no confidence. **Democrats** and **independents** have also shown declines in confidence.

Key reasons for this decline include concerns about **political agendas**, lack of **relevant** skills being taught, and high costs. While Republicans mainly cite political **biases**, Democrats are more concerned about the cost of education. Interestingly, Americans have more confidence in two-year colleges than in four-year ones. A separate report showed that 48% of Americans trust community colleges, compared to 33% for four-year universities. This preference holds true across political groups. Most Americans also believe higher education is heading in the wrong direction, with only 31% feeling **optimistic** about its future.

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Comprehension exercise

1. Due to a recent _____, it's clear that Americans are now _____ in their confidence in higher education, with a significant _____ from 2015 when 57% had a lot of confidence and only 10% had little or none.

2. Republicans' confidence in higher education has especially dropped; in 2015, 56% of Republicans were confident, but now only _____ are, while _____ have little or no confidence.

3. Concerns about _____, lack of _____ skills being taught, and high _____ are key reasons for the decline in confidence in U.S. colleges and universities.

Discussion questions

1. What might happen to the U.S. job market if fewer people trust colleges and universities?
2. Why do you think more people trust community colleges than four-year universities?
3. How can colleges and universities make people trust them again?
4. How does the situation in the USA compare to Taiwan?

Interactive worksheet questions

1. What are the pros and cons of interactive worksheets?

Pros	Cons

2. How can interactive worksheets, like those on Liveworksheets, enhance language learning for students of different ages?
3. What challenges might teachers face when incorporating interactive worksheets into their curriculum?

LIVEWORKSHEETS