

## **\$UCCESS (Dolla Dolla Billz)**

*Written by the Milton Academy Panel  
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In total, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have raised nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in funding for their campaigns—enough money for a round trip excursion to the moon. Some believe that Hillary is a “nasty woman”, others think that The Donald is a misogynist. Regardless of anyone’s personal views about the candidates, we can all agree on thing: Hillary and The Donald have acquired immense wealth for their campaigns, giving them backing to become our two frontrunners. Not only does this year's presidential election force us to question what America wants in her leader but also provides a glowing example of money’s direct and absolute connection to success.

We all foresee the failure of the two most prominent minor party nominees, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein. Their future defeat demonstrates the obstacles that people with less funding face in a capital-controlled society. Combined, both candidates’ campaign funding amounts to a measly 15 million-- just 2% of the cash the major party candidates have racked up this election season. Current polls show Secretary Clinton leading with a tremendous 47% and Mr. Trump trailing behind with a still impressive 39%. Clinton battles Trump on major networks through attack ads worth thousands of dollars, while Johnson and Stein are confined by their financial inadequacy. As embarrassing as it may be, I admit that I, like many other Americans, was oblivious to the existence—let alone the names—of these two nominees because, without money to put towards ads on major networks or the ability to host massive campaign rallies, Jill Stein and Gary Johnson can’t get their names and messages out. Even among the two minor party candidates, money—or lack thereof—has created a “success gap”. Jill Stein, who raised even less than Gary Johnson, with a net funding of only 3 million dollars, has been doing so poorly that I found it extremely hard to even find reputable poll numbers on her. Each candidate’s popularity “level” in the United States is no coincidence. Looking at each candidate’s funding—from Clinton’s massive \$450 million to Stein’s mere \$3 million—, the correlation between each campaign’s wealth and its success is as clear as daylight.

Now [focus in on] the financial environment at Milton Academy, and you’ll see interesting parallels to this year’s election. Yearly tuition for a boarder at Milton is \$55,000 and tuition for a day student is \$45,000. Even for those who are able to pay in full, these sums of money can still remain a significant hardship for families. Fortunately, like most other private schools, Milton offers financial aid. With the average 75% tuition reduction, a boarder with financial aid comes to around \$13,750, which could still take large portion of someone’s income. Though Milton provides 100% financial aid for families with an annual income of 75,000 dollars or below, for anyone with an income falling just above that \$14,000 to send your child to a school with a tuition like Milton’s isn’t feasible. In addition many other prep schools aren’t as gracious as Milton to provide low earning families this opportunity. As a result, even with financial aid,

many families cannot send their children to Milton, demonstrating that Milton and other expensive private schools, similar to success in the election, is financially exclusive.

Beyond the idea of financial aid, money problems still exist at Milton. One example is Milton's approach to transportation—#BringBackUber. Before 2015, our school allowed its students to use Uber and Lyft, but for legal reasons, that service [was taken away]. Taxis, our supposed new best friend, smell like must and cigarettes, and they cost sometimes triple the price of a ridesharing service. To a student applying to ten or twelve colleges, finding an affordable way to get to interviews is difficult. An affluent boarder thinks little of spending the extra money on a taxi, but a for less fortunate student, one unable to pay for the expensive ride, skipping the interview may be the only option—despite the toll it may take on his or her acceptance. Unfortunately, though Milton has promised to seek an easier, budget-friendly way for its students to get around, they've yet to follow through. All of this forces us to examine money's role in society—how it paves way for success, whether it be at the academy or in this year's presidential election.

Whether it be have advantages in both cases, but it is no different in the real world as the current election cycle clearly shows power of the 1%. In today's world, education is powerful because it allows you to make money. Most jobs require some sort of college education, but for many, college isn't affordable. As a junior, I am beginning to look at colleges, and I couldn't help but notice that the tuition of most universities is less than the tuition at Milton. For many people, attending college is a privilege, so what does that make attending Milton?

Poll statistics: <http://www.cnn.com/election>

Campaign funding amounts: <https://www.opensecrets.org/pres16/candidate?id=N00023864>