



3



8



18



23



40



ALTERNATIVES  
TO COLLEGE

11

66



27



34



40





**KIDS AT 18 HAVE NO IDEA  
WHAT THEY WANT TO DO  
IN LIFE.**

**THE WORLD IS A VERY BIG PLACE.  
IT'S BIGGER THAN FIVE CLASSES  
A DAY ON PHILOSOPHY OR  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING.**



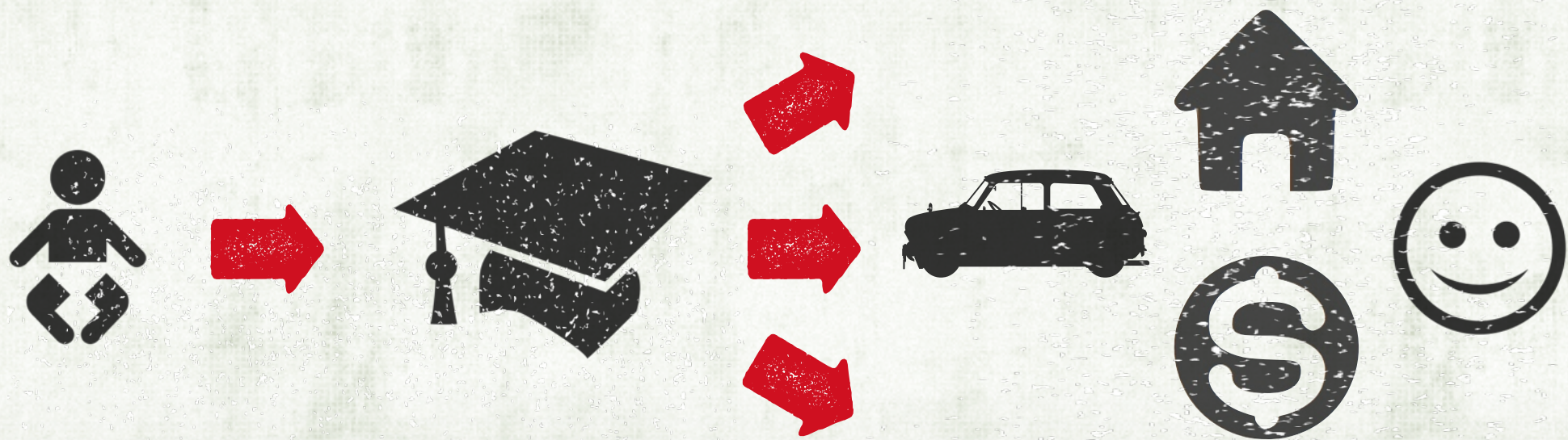


**COLLEGES HAVE MADE USE OF  
THE MYTH THAT YOU CAN'T  
GET A JOB UNLESS YOU HAVE  
A COLLEGE EDUCATION.**



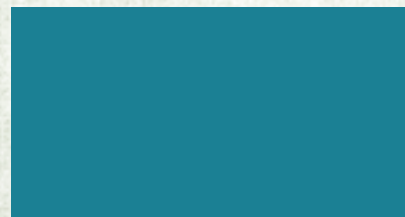


**SO YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL A  
RUSH TO GET THAT COLLEGE  
OUT OF THE WAY SO THEY CAN  
GET A JOB AND “BEGIN” THEIR  
ADULT LIVES.**





**COLLEGE COSTS HAVE RISEN 1,000% IN  
THE PAST 30 YEARS WHILE HEALTHCARE  
HAS RISEN 700% AND INFLATION HAS  
RISEN “ONLY” 300%.**






**RIGHT NOW  
STUDENT LOAN  
DEBT IS GREATER  
THAN HOMEOWNER  
DEBT & CREDIT CARD  
DEBT IN THIS COUNTRY.**

**THAT'S A LOT OF DEBT.**



**WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY WE'VE CREATED  
GENERATIONS OF INNOVATORS AND  
CREATORS, NOW WE ARE CREATING  
A GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE MIRED  
DOWN IN HOPELESS DEBT.**



**WHEN WILL THEY GET  
TO LIVE LIFE?**





# **WITH COLLEGE:**

- A) YOU LEARN VERY LITTLE THAT YOU USE IN REAL LIFE.**
- B) YOU ARE SO BURDENED BY DEBT THAT YOU CAN'T USE YOUR NEW-FOUND KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE REAL FREEDOM AND JOY FOR YOURSELF.**
- C) A YOUNG PERSON CAN USE THEIR ENERGY IN MANY OTHER WAYS THAN JUST COLLEGE.**



**SO, IN LIEU OF COLLEGE, HERE ARE:**

**→ 40 ALTERNATIVES ←**

**I COULD'VE MADE THIS LIST 100 ALTERNATIVES LONG. BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVES AS WELL. THERE'S LOTS OF WAYS TO GET EXPERIENCE, LEARN SKILLS, MAKE MONEY, AVOID DEBT, FIND HAPPINESS, AVOID SADNESS, AND DEAL WITH THE FEAR THAT YOU AREN'T ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE THE TOO-EASY PATH OF GOING TO COLLEGE AT THE AGE OF 18.**





# 40

## ALTERNATIVES TO COLLEGE

THE JAMES  
ALTUCHER  
SHOW



# 1

## START A BUSINESS

THIS IS THE COLLEGE OF THE STREETS.  
AND WHEN YOU HAVE TO EAT WHAT YOU  
KILL, YOU LEARN EXTREMELY FAST.

YOU LEARN HOW TO COME UP WITH IDEAS THAT  
WILL BE ACCEPTED BY OTHER PEOPLE. MOST KIDS  
GRADUATE COLLEGE WITH AN ATROPHIED IDEA  
MUSCLE. STARTING A BUSINESS FORCES YOU TO  
EXERCISE THAT MUSCLE EVERY DAY.



# 2

## TRAVEL THE WORLD

YOU WILL MEET OTHER FOREIGNERS TRAVELING. YOU WILL LEARN WHAT POVERTY IS. YOU WILL LEARN THE VALUE OF HOW TO STRETCH A DOLLAR.

YOU WILL OFTEN BE IN SITUATIONS WHERE YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE DESPITE THE ODDS BEING AGAINST YOU.



YOU WILL LEARN YOU AREN'T THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.



# 3

## CREATE ART

SPEND A YEAR LEARNING HOW TO PAINT. OR HOW TO PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. MAKE A BAND AND TOUR WITH IT. OR WRITE 5 NOVELS. LEARN TO DISCIPLINE YOURSELF TO CREATE.

CREATION DOESN'T HAPPEN FROM INSPIRATION. IT HAPPENS FROM PERSPIRATION, DISCIPLINE, AND PASSION. CREATIVITY DOESN'T COME FROM GOD. IT'S A MUSCLE THAT YOU NEED TO LEARN TO BUILD.

WHY NOT BUILD IT WHILE YOUR BRAIN IS STILL CREATING NEW NEURONS AT A BREATHTAKING RATE THAN LEARNING IT WHEN YOU ARE OLDER (AND FOR MANY PEOPLE, TOO LATE).



# 4

## MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH

SPEND A YEAR LEARNING HOW TO DO  
STANDUP-COMEDY IN FRONT OF PEOPLE.

THIS WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO WRITE. HOW  
TO COMMUNICATE. HOW TO SELL YOURSELF.  
HOW TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO HATE YOU. HOW  
TO DEAL WITH THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FAILURE  
ON A DAILY BASIS. AND, OF COURSE,  
HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH.



# 5

## WRITE A BOOK

WRITE A NOVEL ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE  
DOING INSTEAD OF GOING TO COLLEGE.  
YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO OBSERVE PEOPLE.

WRITING IS A MEDITATION ON  
LIFE. YOU'LL LIVE EACH DAY,  
INTERPRET IT, AND WRITE IT.



# 6 WORK IN CHARITY

WHAT IS GOING TO SERVE YOU BETTER IN LIFE:  
TAKING FRENCH LITERATURE 101 OR SPENDING  
A YEAR DELIVERING MEALS TO SENIOR  
CITIZENS WITH ALZHEIMERS, OR CURING  
MALARIA IN AFRICA.

IF YOU DO ANY OF THESE ITEMS FOR A  
YEAR, TWO YEARS, MAYBE TEN, THEN  
MAYBE GO TO COLLEGE? WHY NOT?  
IT'S YOUR LIFE.



# 7 MASTER A GAME

MASTERING A GAME BUILDS DISCIPLINE, LETS YOU SOCIALIZE WITH OTHER PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS BUT WHO HAVE SIMILAR PASSIONS, AND HELPS YOU TO DEVELOP THE INSTINCTS OF A KILLER WITHOUT HAVING TO KILL ANYONE.

ONCE YOU MASTER ONE GAME, IT TEACHES YOU “HOW TO MASTER” IN GENERAL. THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY USEFUL SKILL TO LEARN. PARTICULARLY IF YOU CAN DO IT FOR CHEAP. A CHESSBOARD AND SOME CHESS BOOKS COST A LOT LESS THAN A COLLEGE EDUCATION.



8

# MASTER A SPORT

PROBABLY EVEN BETTER THAN MASTERING  
A GAME BECAUSE IT'S THE SAME AS ALL  
OF THE ABOVE BUT YOU ALSO GET IN  
SHAPE.



# **9** WANT TO BE A DOCTOR? DON'T YOU NEED A DEGREE? MAYBE.

**SO BEFORE YOU SIGN UP FOR TEN YEARS OF  
HELL AND A MILLION IN DEBT DO THIS:**

**VOLUNTEER AT A HOSPITAL, OR AT A MORGUE,  
GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR ELEMENT, SEE WHAT  
THEY DO, HOW THEY WORK, YOU MAY FIND  
DOCTORS DON'T QUITE KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU  
THOUGHT THEY DID, YOU MAY FIND  
YOU DON'T LIKE BEING VOMITED ON.**



10

**WANT TO BE A LAWYER?**

**WORK AS A PARALEGAL, DO IT FOR FREE FOR A YEAR, SEE WHAT REALLY GOES ON IN THE LAW FIRM.**

**WATCH THOSE LAWYERS WORKING 80 HOURS A WEEK, SLEEPING IN THE OFFICE. SEE THE FIRST YEAR ASSOCIATES COME IN WITH THEIR HUGE DEBTS TO PAY ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES IN CAUCUS ROOMS FULL OF BOXES WITH BORING DOCUMENTS THAT THEY HAVE TO HIGHLIGHT FOR AT LEAST A YEAR OR TWO. SEE IF YOU WANT THAT.**



11

**DO ANYTHING YOU WANT  
FOR ONE YEAR.**

**TAKE A BREAK.**

**LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS ABOUT  
WHAT YOU NEED TO ACCOMPLISH SO QUICKLY. IN THE  
PAST 100 YEARS LIFESPANS HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED.  
THERE'S NO RUSH AT THE AGE OF 18 TO DIVE INTO FIVE  
MORE YEARS OF STRESS.**

**TAKE A BREAK. IT'S WHEN YOU LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS  
THAT THE FULL RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES BECOMES OPEN  
TO YOU. TRY IT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS,  
WHAT PASSIONS FALL YOUR WAY.**



12

GO TO UNCOLLEGE.ORG

TAKE COURSES IN THINGS YOU ARE  
INTERESTED IN.

THE WEB IS AN AMAZING THING. THEY DIDN'T  
HAVE IT WHEN I BEGAN COLLEGE. BUT THERE ARE  
SITES LIKE UNCOLLEGE.ORG WHERE YOU CAN SEE  
A FULL LIST OF COURSES BEING OFFERED ONLINE  
BY UNIVERSITIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

FROM STANFORD TO MIT TO RANDOM  
COURSES ON JUST ABOUT ANY TOPIC.



# 13

## DO THE DAILY PRACTICE FOR A YEAR AND SEE WHERE IT TAKES YOU

THE BASIC IDEA IS TO KICK START YOUR HEALTH, YOUR IDEA MUSCLE, YOUR CREATIVITY, YOUR MOTIVATIONS, & YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

### PHYSICAL

#### EXERCISE

HOW MANY HOURS  
DID YOU SLEEP?

WHAT DID YOU EAT  
TODAY?

### MENTAL

IDEA LIST (WITH  
FUNCTIONALITY SO PEOPLE  
CAN TRACK IDEAS)

WHAT DID YOU READ TODAY?  
(NOT COUNTING MEDIA)

### SPIRITUAL

WHAT AM  
I GRATEFUL  
FOR TODAY?

WHAT SPIRITUAL  
PRACTICE DID  
I DO TODAY?

### EMOTIONAL

WHAT NEGATIVE PEOPLE DID YOU  
IGNORE?

WHAT PEOPLE DID YOU CONNECT?

WHAT POSITIVE PEOPLE DID YOU  
BRING INTO YOUR LIFE?



# 14 TAKE A JOB

**YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO WORK. YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION. YOU'LL BE FORCED TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LIKE YOU (AND YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN LIKE).**

**THESE ARE SKILLS NOT TAUGHT IN COLLEGE AND MANY PEOPLE LEARN THEM TOO LATE IN LIFE**



# 15

## WRITE A SCRIPT FOR A MOVIE

GO AHEAD, TRY IT. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT LATER. WATCH A BUNCH OF HORROR MOVIES AND THEN WRITE A SCRIPT FOR ONE. GET SYD FIELD'S BOOK ON WRITING SCREENPLAYS.

IT MIGHT BE A CRAZY IDEA. WHEN YOU ARE 40!  
BUT IT'S CERTAINLY NOT A CRAZY IDEA RIGHT NOW.



16

**DIRECT A DOCUMENTARY  
ON SOMETHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN**

**FOR INSTANCE, DO YOU LIKE BASEBALL?**

**TRACK DOWN EVERYONE WHO HAS CAUGHT THE BASEBALLS  
OF RECORD-BREAKING HITS: BABE RUTH'S HOMERUN RECORD,  
HANK AARON, DEREK JETER'S HITTING RECORD, ETC.**

**I'M MAKING THIS UP OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD.**

**I HATE BASEBALL. BUT A DOCUMENTARY LIKE THIS HAS  
A NICE ARC: WITH EACH SEGMENT, FOR INSTANCE:  
WHAT MADE RUTH SUCH A SUCCESS, OR AARON, OR  
WHOEVER. WHY WAS THE BASEBALL SO COVETED?**

**THE JAMES  
ALTUCHER  
SHOW**

**FOLLOW ITS RISE IN PRICE OVER THE YEARS  
AND SEE WHO OWNS IT NOW AND WHY.**



# 17

## AUDITION IN BROADWAY FOR A WHOLE YEAR

SEE WHAT IT TAKES, HOW YOU CAN DO IT.  
ACTING IS NOT A BAD SKILL TO LEARN NO  
MATTER WHERE YOUR LIFE TAKES YOU.  
AND YOU WILL BUILD FRIENDSHIPS AND  
CONTACTS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

THE JAMES  
ALTUCHER  
SHOW

AND YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU  
COULD BE A STAR!



# 18

## VOLUNTEER GARDENING AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT REAL ESTATE,  
ABOUT GARDENS AND PLANTS.  
SHOVEL SNOW IN THE WINTER. YOU WILL  
LEARN ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY.



# 19 BECOME A REAL ESTATE AGENT

SEE IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SELL THINGS.

YOU WILL LEARN MARKETING, SALES, INTERIOR DESIGN, THE BASICS OF ARCHITECTURE, AND AGAIN YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU CAN MEET IN THE PROCESS OF THIS THAT COULD CATAPULT YOUR CAREER IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DIRECTION.



20

# TAKE UP YOGA

YOGA IS A WAY OF LIFE THAT CLEANSSES THE BODY. IT'S ABOUT NUTRITION. IT'S ABOUT BEING HONEST. IT'S ABOUT MEDITATION. IT'S ABOUT BEING KIND TO PEOPLE.

AND, GETTING BACK TO THE PHYSICAL, YOU WILL GET INTO BRUTAL SHAPE. IS THAT SUCH A BAD THING TO DO FOR A YEAR THAN SPENDING \$50,000 GOING TO A SCHOOL.



21

**GO TO 4 VIPASSANA MEDITATION  
RETREATS WITHIN ONE YEAR**

**THEY ARE COMPLETELY FREE AND BRUTAL.  
GET TO SEE HOW YOUR MIND WORKS.**

**VIPASSANA, WHICH MEANS “SEEING THINGS AS  
THEY ARE”, IS A STYLE OF MEDITATION THAT  
REQUIRES INTENSE SITTING AND DIVING INTO THE  
MIND. OBSERVING WHAT IT DOES TO YOU.**

**IT’S COMPLETELY FREE AND THERE ARE CENTERS ALL  
OVER THE WORLD. A RETREAT TAKES TEN DAYS. YOU  
WILL LEARN MORE IN THOSE TEN DAYS ABOUT YOUR  
MIND AND YOUR BODY THAN YOU CAN  
LEARN IN SIX MONTHS OF COLLEGE.**



22

**STUDY WHATEVER IT IS YOU  
ARE INTERESTED IN.**

**GET IN THE GAME.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN  
SOMETHING, DIVE IN.**

**READ BOOKS, TRY IT OUT,  
BECOME SOMEBODY.**



# 23

## BECOME A CONNECTOR, MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

YOU MIGHT SAY, “WELL DON’T I HAVE TO BE ALREADY BIG IN AN INDUSTRY TO CONNECT PEOPLE”.

HERE IS WHAT YOU DO: GET SOMEONE WHO IS AN EXPERT IN A FIELD YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TO AGREE TO GIVE A TALK. LET’S SAY IT’S ABOUT ENTREPRENEURSHIP. GET A LAW FIRM TO SPONSOR IT AND USE FACEBOOK TO MARKET THE EVENT. BAM! YOU’LL MEET A MILLION PEOPLE.

YOUR PERSONAL NETWORK HAS REAL VALUE. NETWORKING DOES HAPPEN IN COLLEGE BUT IT IS 1/10 THE NETWORKING YOU CAN DO ON YOUR OWN.



**24****BECOME A PARTY  
PLANNER**

**SWEET 16s, BAR MITZVAHS, WEDDINGS. FIGURE OUT ALL THE PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA THAT OFFER SERVICES FOR PARTIES. THEN OFFER TO ORGANIZE EVENTS FOR CHEAP. YOU CAN BE CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER PLANNER OUT THERE BECAUSE YOUR PERSONAL EXPENSES ARE CHEAPER. AND, AGAIN, THE NETWORKING YOU DEVELOP WILL BE INVALUABLE.**



# 25

## LEARN AND MASTER A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

INCLUDE A TRIP AT THE SIX MONTH MARK SO YOU WILL SEE IF YOU ARE REALLY LEARNING IT. I TOOK FRENCH FOR FIVE YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE. I CANNOT SPEAK TO YOU ONE WORD OF FRENCH.

THE WAY TO LEARN A LANGUAGE IS TO INTENSELY STUDY IT 5–7 HOURS A DAY AND THEN GO TO THAT COUNTRY AND SPEAK IT. AND YOU WILL LEARN IT.



# 26

**GRAB WHATEVER IT IS  
THAT IS BUGGING YOU,  
BOTHERING YOU  
UPSETTING YOU, &  
SOLVE THE PROBLEM**

**ARE CHARITIES WASTING TOO MUCH  
MONEY ON SALARIES? DO RESEARCH;  
WRITE AN ARTICLE, DO A BLOG, A  
DOCUMENTARY, EXPOSE THE PROBLEM.**



# 27

## BECOME A PERSONALITY

MAKE A BLOG, SYNDICATE IT, WRITE ABOUT EVERY PIECE OF CONTENT YOU CAN ABOUT YOUR PASSION.

THIS TEACHES YOU HOW TO BUILD A WEBSITE. HOW TO DO RESEARCH IN THE REAL WORLD (AS OPPOSED TO RESEARCH ABOUT OLIVER CROMWELL OR WHATEVER YOU ARE STUDYING IN COLLEGE), HOW TO DISTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS, HOW TO BECOME A BETTER WRITER AND COMMUNICATOR, ETC



28

# WRITE AND PITCH YOUR OWN TV SHOW

EVERY DAY COME UP WITH 10 IDEAS FOR TV  
SHOWS AND HOW YOU WOULD SHOOT THEM.  
BEFORE YOU FINISH YOUR FIRST YEAR OF  
DOING THIS YOU WILL HAVE AT LEAST  
SEVERAL GOOD IDEAS YOU CAN GO AHEAD  
AND SHOOT.



# 29

## GO TO MOTIVATIONAL SEMINARS

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND \$5,000 TO ATTEND A TONY ROBBINS SEMINAR BUT YOU CAN SPEND MUCH LESS AND GET JUST AS MUCH VALUE FROM ANY NUMBER OF SPEAKERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE AND NOW WANT TO TRANSMIT THAT SUCCESS TO YOU.

THAT'S VALUABLE INFORMATION THEY WILL BE IMPARTING. IMAGINE YEAR LEARNING FROM THESE MENTORS. DO YOUR RESEARCH, MAKE SURE THEY ARE GOOD, PUT IN THE TIME TO ENSURE THE MESSAGE IS ONE THAT RESONATES WITH YOU AND THAT THE TEACHERS HAVE INTEGRITY, AND THEN GO FOR IT. LEARN.



ALTERNATIVE

# 30 PLAY!

**YOU ARE OFF SCHOOL AND  
18 FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!**

**GO CANOEING, HIKING,  
ANYTHING!**

**THE JAMES  
ALTUCHER  
SHOW**



31

**BECOME A MODEL OF  
WHATEVER YOUR SIZE IS**

**YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE  
OR WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE. LEARN THE FASHION  
INDUSTRY. WORK IN IT. INTERN IN IT. POSE FOR IT.  
WEAR A BRACELET AND HAVE THOSE PICTURES  
APPEAR IN A PAMPHLET. THERE'S NOTHING  
WRONG WITH TRYING.**



32

**GO TO SAN FRANCISCO AND  
MINGLE WITH SILICON VALLEY**

**NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE SAY, IF YOU WANT TO  
DO A TECH STARTUP, GO OUT TO SAN FRANCISCO,  
GO TO THE TECH MEETUPS, LEARN WHO THE  
MOVERS AND SHAKERS ARE, LEARN HOW TO  
CODE, AND START A BUSINESS.**

**YOUR NETWORKING ABILITY THERE  
IS 1,000 TIMES WHAT IT WOULD BE  
IN KANSAS CITY**



33

# VISIT ALL THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC SITES OF EUROPE

YOU WANT HISTORY? YOU DON'T NEED TO SPEND \$200,000 IN COLLEGE LEARNING IT. GO TO HISTORY. GO TO ALL THE PLACES. LEARN THE LESSONS LEARNED ON THOSE VERY SPOTS. THINK ABOUT THEM. STUDY THEM. YOU WILL SURVIVE ON YOUR WITS. YOU WILL BECOME MORE OF A WORLD CITIZEN THAN ANY YOUNG PERSON STUCK ON A 3 SQUARE-MILE COLLEGE CAMPUS IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.



# 34

## BACKPACK EL CAMINO THE SANTIAGO – THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

THOUSANDS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS A YEAR HIKE THIS TRAIL IN SPAIN. PAULO COELHO HAS WRITTEN BOOKS ABOUT IT. MANY PEOPLE HAVE SAID IT HAS CHANGED THEIR LIVES. BEFORE YOU RUSH HEAD FIRST INTO THE CRUSHING WORLD OF MATERIALISM GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE WHAT A SPIRITUAL QUEST MIGHT LOOK LIKE.



# 35

## HIKE THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

SIMILAR REASONS AS ABOVE. BUT YOU LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE ON YOUR OWN, IN THE WOODS, WITHOUT A SOUL IN SIGHT. YOU MAY NEVER GET THIS CHANCE AGAIN TO CONFRONT YOUR FEARS, YOUR SENSE OF SELF-WORTH, AND YOUR LONELINESS.



36

# MAKE YOUR OWN LIST OF ALTERNATIVES

MAKE YOUR OWN LIST OF ALTERNATIVES  
THAT REALLY RESONATE WITH YOU. THIS IS  
MY LIST OF WHAT I THINK WILL WORK FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE. ADD TO IT.

AND EMAIL ME AT [ALTUCHER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALTUCHER@GMAIL.COM)  
AND GIVE ME MORE ALTERNATIVES.



# 37

## A VIRTUAL MENTOR

I STILL DO THIS. A FEW WEEKS AGO I WATCHED EVERY WOODY ALLEN MOVIE. I READ HIS BOOKS. I READ EVERY INTERVIEW HE DID. I WROTE A BLOG POST: NINE THINGS I LEARNED FROM WOODY ALLEN.

BECAUSE I SPEND SO MUCH TIME TRYING TO GET TO THE ESSENCE OF HIS WORK AND ART, MY EFFORTS WERE APPRECIATED AND THE ARTICLE PROVED TO BE ENORMOUSLY PROFITABLE.

EVERY WEEK I STUDY A NEW VIRTUAL MENTOR. RIGHT NOW I'M STUDYING THE LIFE OF HOWARD HUGHES. I'VE ALSO BEEN STUDYING THE LIFE OF GANDHI. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD WHO CREATED THINGS. PEOPLE WHO MASTERED THE FIELDS THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN.



38

# RUN FOR OFFICE

THIS MIGHT SEEM LIKE A JOKE. YOU'RE ONLY 18. BUT RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL. OR RUN FOR MAYOR. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE ISSUES IN YOUR TOWN.

THIS WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO SPEAK. AGAIN, HOW TO COME UP WITH IDEAS. HOW TO COMMUNICATE THEM. HOW TO ALLOCATE RESOURCES. HOW THE POLITICAL POWER SYSTEM WORKS.

THE JAMES  
ALTUCHER  
SHOW



39

# RAISE FUNDS FOR A CAUSE YOU FEEL STRONG ABOUT

USE KICKSTARTER, FOR INSTANCE, TO RAISE THE MONEY. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU RAISING FUNDS FROM? RICH PEOPLE. SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE. PEOPLE YOU CAN LEARN FROM. PEOPLE YOU CAN LATER ASK ADVICE FROM. PEOPLE WHO WILL REMEMBER YOU BECAUSE THEY WILL SAY, "THIS IS AN 18 YEAR OLD WHO CARED".

THE JAMES  
ALTUCHER  
SHOW

GUESS WHAT? THERE ARE NOT THAT MANY 18 YEAR OLDS WHO CARE. NOW YOU CAN BE ONE OF THE FEW.



40

# WATCH A MOVIE A DAY FOR A YEAR

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WATCH A MOVIE  
EVERY DAY READ ONE BOOK A WEEK THAT  
YOU AND ONE OF YOUR PARENTS PICK AND  
DISCUSS IT AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

MOVIES ARE ABOUT LIFE. THEY ARE ABOUT PAIN.  
THEY ARE OFTEN ABOUT THE TROUBLES OF  
ADULTHOOD. WHAT A BETTER EDUCATION THEN TO  
WATCH THESE MOVIES AND DISCUSS THEM WITH  
AN ADULT WHO HAS MAYBE BEEN  
THROUGH SOME OF THESE ISSUES.



**GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE. GIVE YOUR PARENTS A CHANCE. AT LEAST SPEND A YEAR TRYING THE ABOVE ALTERNATIVES OR ONE OF YOUR DESIGN. MAYBE SPEND TWO, OR EVEN THREE. HECK, MAYBE SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE DOING ONE OF THE ABOVE.**



**I'M SURE IF YOU DO THAT YOU WILL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, EVERYONE WHO GOES TO COLLEGE WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SMART CHOICES YOU MADE.**





**COLLEGE DOESN'T  
TEACH YOU INNOVATION,  
CREATIVITY OR PASSION.**

**GET THE BRAND NEW BOOK,  
PLUS 10 MORE CRITICAL ONES  
THAT CAN HELP YOUR KIDS  
MAKE MILLIONS.**



**DOWNLOAD HERE**



**50 ALTERNATIVES TO COLLEGE**