

## PBL simulation

Pre-discuss the task-text below and formulate a Problem Statement and Learning Goals. These will serve as guidelines for preparing for the next meeting in which the post-discussion will take place and you will try to provide answers to the questions that you formulate today. Your mentor will take up the role of tutor and the senior student will act as note taker.



## Assignment Not for profit?

"If I'm going to take money from a citizen to put into education then I'm going to take that money to create jobs. So I want that money to go to degrees where people can get jobs in this state. Is it a vital interest of the state to have more anthropologists? I don't think so" (Scott, 2011)

"Thirsty for national profit, nations, and their systems of education, are heedlessly discarding skills that are needed to keep democracies alive. If this trend continues, nations all over the world will soon be producing generations of useful machines, rather than complete citizens who can think for themselves, criticize tradition, and understand the significance of another person's sufferings and achievements. The future of the world's democracies hangs in the balance" (Nussbaum, 2016)

"University graduates are expected to serve our communities as ethical leaders, innovative researchers, or empathic professionals who help to create conditions that mitigate some of the many wicked problems our world faces, like inequality, poverty, migration and the climate crisis" [Global Citizenship Education - global-citizenship-education - Maastricht University](#)

In 2011, Florida's governor Rick Scott presented his view on higher education. According to Scott, the main aim of education is to create jobs. Hence, only degrees that prepare people directly for a job are worthwhile. The state should subsequently not fund the social sciences and the humanities (such as anthropology). This raises a fundamental question: what is the purpose of education? Is it, as Scott suggests, to prepare people for the job market? To stimulate the economy?



In her 2010 essay *Not for profit*, philosopher Martha Nussbaum criticized the shortsighted focus on profitable skills. Education should not be aimed at producing “useful machines”, but to raise critically thinking, democratic citizens. Nussbaum argued that we must resist efforts to reduce education to a tool of the gross national product. Now that you are starting your studies at university, you probably have been confronted with questions about the ‘use’ or the aim of your Bachelor. Maybe you even already have an answer?

### **Resources**

- Nussbaum, M. (2016 [2010]). The Silent Crisis. In: M. Nussbaum, *Not for Profit* (pp. 1-12) (available via CANVAS)

- <https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/um-world>

Additional material:

- Rens Bod on the use of the humanities:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3Yq2583H\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3Yq2583H_E)