

Nicki Minaj to pay college fees for fans

10th May, 2017



The singer Nicki Minaj has told her millions of Twitter followers she would pay university tuition fees for some of them if they can get A-grades. The 34-year-old rapper agreed to donate thousands of dollars to 30 fans if they could prove they got straight A's at

high school. She also promised she would pay more tuition fees in the future. Ms Minaj tweeted: "Show me straight A's that I can verify with your school, and I'll pay [your college fees]." In an additional tweet, she joked: "Let me make those payments tomorrow, then see if I have any money left." Soon after she posted her tweet on Twitter, she received thousands of replies. One student asked for \$6,000 to pay for his accommodation, books, classes and food.

Minaj did not initially plan to pay for her fans' tuition fees. She started tweeting about a contest to fly in a fan from anywhere in the world to join her at a music awards show in Las Vegas. A fan quickly asked if she would pay for his college fees and things went on from there. Nicki Minaj was born in Trinidad and raised in New York. A New York Times editor suggested she was, "the most influential female rapper of all time". She has sold 20 million singles worldwide as a solo artist, and another 60 million singles as a featured or guest artist. One Twitter user said: "She is...one of the most compassionate, caring and generous people in all of the entertainment industry."

Sources: sky.com / usatoday.com / Wikipedia.org

Writing

All rich people should help pay the school fees of poorer kids. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

millions / university / tuition / A-grades / replies / accommodation / books / classes / initially / contest / music awards / college fees / editor / influential / female / rapper

True / False

- a) Nicki Minaj has billions of followers. T / F
- b) Nicki Minaj wanted to pay the tuition for 300 of her fans. T / F
- c) Minaj wanted to verify straight A's with students' schools. T / F
- d) A student asked Nicki Minaj for \$60,000 for his tuition fees. T / F
- e) Minaj first wanted someone to join her at an awards show in Las Vegas. T / F
- f) Nicki Minaj was born in New York and raised in Trinidad. T / F
- g) Minaj has sold 20 million singles as a solo singer. T / F
- h) T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. tuition | a. at first |
| 2. prove | b. further |
| 3. additional | c. responses |
| 4. replies | d. grew up |
| 5. accommodation | e. get together with |
| 6. initially | f. education |
| 7. join | g. globally |
| 8. was raised | h. giving |
| 9. worldwide | i. housing |
| 10. generous | j. show |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Which music star would you like to join at an awards show?
- c) What do you think of rap music?
- d) Who is the most important rapper ever?
- e) Which famous people do you think are very caring?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- g) Should all singers help kids through college?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Nicki Minaj?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. she would pay university tuition | a. generous |
| 2. agreed to donate | b. accommodation |
| 3. pay more tuition fees | c. show |
| 4. she received thousands | d. fees |
| 5. \$6,000 to pay for his | e. artist |
| 6. at a music awards | f. industry |
| 7. the most influential | g. of replies |
| 8. as a solo | h. in the future |
| 9. compassionate, caring and | i. female rapper |
| 10. the entertainment | j. thousands of dollars |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Nicki Minaj?
- What do you think of Nicki Minaj after reading this article?
- What do you think of college tuition fees?
- What grades did you get at school?
- Should Nicki also pay for students who get C's and D's?
- Do you think university is too expensive?
- What is the best way to get A-grades?
- How can students save money on college costs?

Spelling

- danoet thousands of dollars
- pay more nuiitot fees
- In an taonaildid tweet
- Let me make those msapyent tomorrow
- she received thousands of rsilepe
- \$6,000 to pay for his cocdatimamoon
- Minaj did not iillnyati plan to pay
- join her at a music darsaw show
- born in Trinidad and asired in New York
- as a solo aitstr
- caring and eogrneus
- in all of the entertainment yustrind

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. b	4. c	5. i
6. a	7. e	8. d	9. g	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Friends

You think friends are the most important things about college. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): clubs, teachers or passing exams.

Role B – Clubs

You think clubs are the most important things about college. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): friends, teachers or passing exams.

Role C – Teachers

You think teachers are the most important things about college. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): clubs, friends or passing exams.

Role D – Passing exams

You think passing exams is the most important thing about college. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): clubs, teachers or friends.

Speaking – College

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things about college at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • passing exams | • friends |
| • growing up | • clubs |
| • learning | • teachers |
| • community | • graduation |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.