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LOST IN THE MERITOCRACY reckons up the costs of a system where the point is simply to keep accumulating points and never to look back” or within. It's a remarkable book that suggests the first step toward intellectual fulfillment is getting off the treadmill that is the American meritocracy.

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**Lost in the Meritocracy by Walter  
Kirn: 9780307279453 ...**

The novelist Walter Kirn's new memoir, *Lost in the Meritocracy*, contains several references to F. Scott Fitzgerald. One comes early in its pages, when Kirn recalls how as a teenager he read *The*

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Great Gatsby and, like its author and its narrator, yearned to leave Minnesota and head East.

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Walter Kirn's Lost in the Meritocracy: The Overeducation of an Underachiever doesn't quite make it. As it tracks his

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strategically manipulated entry into Princeton and the “ruling class” — all due to his ability to game the system and flatter the gatekeepers — it occasionally scores high on satire and (suspiciously) triumphant self-abnegation.

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And that, in the end, is a fundamental question surrounding these schools, one that Kirn's book *Lost in the Meritocracy* promises to answer: is their elite nature an asset, a true product of an honestly meritocratic environment?

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Lost in the Meritocracy How I traded an education for a ticket to the ruling class by Walter Kirn On the bus ride down to St. Paul to take the test that will help determine who will get ahead in life, who will stay put, and who will fall behind, two of my closest buddies seal their fates by opening pint bottles of cherry schnapps the moment we ...

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## **Atlantic Monthly essay: "Lost in the Meritocracy ...**

LOST IN THE MERITOCRACY THE UNDEREDUCATION OF AN

OVERACHIEVER by Walter Kirn ·

RELEASE DATE: May 19, 2009 Slapdash memoir from Time and GQ contributing editor Kirn (The Unbinding, 2007, etc.).



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## **LOST IN THE MERITOCRACY | Kirkus Reviews**

The short reading that has been considered for the purpose of this response paper is Lost in the Meritocracy written by Walter Kirn. The short story is more a reflection of the author about his youth that profoundly

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takes the reader to all the events of his youth.

## **Analysis Paper: Lost in the Meritocracy Example | Graduateway**

Lost in the Meritocracy: The Undereducation of an Overachiever is a 2009 memoir by Walter Kirn. It describes his own trip through the American

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education system from rural Minnesota to Princeton University. The author also wrote an earlier essay under the same title for The Atlantic. The book was reviewed twice in the New York Times.

## **Lost in the Meritocracy - Wikipedia**

"Lost in the Meritocracy" was so much better as an essay, rich with humor and

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insight, revealing a world that I fear is still not widely known. Expanding (or bloating) it into some sort of forced Bildungsroman-slash-romp dilutes the knowledge gained from his experiences, at quite a high cost. 43 people found this helpful 0 Comment Report abuse

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Walter Kirn, author of *Lost in the Meritocracy*, on his college breakdown, colliding with clubby rich kids, and the book that brought all the horror rushing back.

### **How I Lost My Mind at Princeton - The Daily Beast**

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June 28, 2009 When I picked up “Lost in the Meritocracy: The Undereducation of an Overachiever” by Walter Kirn (Doubleday), I expected a semi-dry expose on the problems facing the American Education system with an emphasis on the Ivy League schools.

**Review: "Lost in the Meritocracy" -**

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## Undereducation Of An **Walter Kirn (Doubleday ...**

Lost in the Meritocracy. How I traded an education for a ticket to the ruling class. Walter Kirn; One Nation, Divisible. The Editors; Bipolar Disorder.

## **January/February 2005 Issue - The Atlantic**

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Less defensibly, one could further argue that *Lost in the Meritocracy* is itself a thoroughly practiced imitation of a certain language of rebellion, nonconformity, and protest meant to take to task the easy target of the postmodern academy.

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