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<http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/issues/should-the-government-provide-free-college-for-students/>

Username: students Password: C-SPANCLASSROOM

**Deliberation Topic:** [**Should the government provide free college for students?**](http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/should-the-government-provide-free-college-for-students/)

1. First, define these terms and phrases before reading the background article or using the videos from C-SPAN Classroom Deliberations. Try searching Google or a dictionary for a definition.
2. Finally, use these words in your deliberations and writing activities after you understand all sides of the issue.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition |
| Bachelor’s Degree |  |
| Community College |  |
| Debt |  |
| GI Bill |  |
| Grant |  |
| Higher Education |  |
| In-State Tuition |  |
| Inflation |  |
| Loan |  |
| Middle Class |  |
| Out-of-State Tuition |  |
| Pell Grant |  |
| Private Colleges |  |
| Scholarship |  |
| Underemployment |  |

Background Article Questions

**Deliberation Topic:** [**Should the government provide free college for students?**](http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/should-the-government-provide-free-college-for-students/)

[**How The Cost Of College Went From Affordable To Sky-High**](https://www.npr.org/2014/03/18/290868013/how-the-cost-of-college-went-from-affordable-to-sky-high)- *NPR*

* Describe the current frustrations that parents and students face when paying for college.

* What were the effects of the GI Bill?

* What federal and state programs were implemented to increase access to college?

* How were the 1970s a turning point for college affordability?

* Describe how public colleges responded to the reduction in state funding.

* Based on these events, why has college loan debt increased recently?

[**See 20 Years of Tuition Growth at National Universities**](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2017-09-20/see-20-years-of-tuition-growth-at-national-universities)**-** *U.S. News and World Report*

* Overall, how has college tuition changed since 1998?

* How do private, out-of-state and in-state tuition rates compare to each other?

* How does this change relate to inflation?

[**The College-Affordability Crisis Is Uniting the 2020 Democratic Candidates**](https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/02/2020-democrats-free-college/583585/)**-** The Atlantic

* How has college affordability been addressed by presidential candidates in previous campaigns?

* What are the different variations of “free college” plans proposed by Democratic candidates? How are they similar? How do they differ?

* What advantage does the federal government have over state government in terms of paying for these programs?

* What are the limitations of these “free college” plans?

**Background Video Questions**

**Deliberation Topic:** [**Should the government provide free college for students?**](http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/should-the-government-provide-free-college-for-students/)

**Directions:** *To provide a background for the deliberation, answer the questions associated with each of the videos.*

[**The Current State of Higher Education**](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9554)**-**  Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) (4:25)

* How has college affordability changed since the signing of the Higher Education Act?

* What have been the reasons for these changes?

* According to Rep. Scott, why is college a good investment for students and families?

* How is college a good investment for the national economy and local communities?

* Do you agree with Rep. Scott's assessment on college? Why?

[**Benefits and Risks of Going to College**](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9555)**-** Professor Richard Vedder, Ohio University (3:07)

* According to the chart, how does college affordability differ based on the type of institution that students attend?

* What are the risks of attending college, according to Professor Vedder?

* What is meant by underemployed?

[**The History of Federal and State College Aid Programs**](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9556)**-** Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) (3:45)

* What was the GI Bill? How did it help students attend college?

* How did the federal government improve college affordability with the federal loan program in 1958 and the Higher Education Act of 1965?

* What was the purpose of Pell Grants?

* What efforts have individual states made to increase college affordability?

* Describe the impact of these federal and state aid programs.

[**Free College Proposals at the State Level**](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9557)**-** Adam Harris, *The Atlantic* (2:28)

* What is the difference between tuition-free college and debt-free college proposals?

* Describe the college costs other than tuition.

* What are the critiques of current free college plans?

* Compare the free college plans in Tennessee and New York.

# [Should the government provide free college for students?](http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/should-the-government-provide-free-college-for-students/)

Directions: Use this chart to take notes on the strongest arguments for and against the question as you watch C-SPAN’s videos and read the linked articles. For each argument, include the source (writer or speaker), a direct word-for-word quote, and a summary in your own words. Then use the chart in your classroom deliberation, debate or simulation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position: Government should provide free college for students**   * Video Clips:   + [Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9558)   + [Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9559)   + [Kenyatta Lovett, Complete Tennessee](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9560) | **Position: Government should not provide free college for students**   * Video Clips:   + [Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9563)   + [Jason Delisle, American Enterprise Institute](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9564)   + [Arthur Brooks, American Enterprise Institute](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9565) |
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