

Background Article Questions

Deliberation Topic: [Should the government provide free college for students?](#)

[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](#)- *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- 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 the state government in terms of paying for these programs?
- What are the limitations of these “free college” plans?