



2024-2025 Research Package

Topic: THW make university education free



Background

In a rapidly modernizing world, education and literacy have been critical discussion topics within many nations. Amid high costs of living, high tuition fees, and unemployment, universities become an important place for people to gain higher education and qualify for sustainable employment. However, the university journey is definitely not an easy path in terms of finance; therefore, this topic will require all debaters to critically analyze the role universities play in one's life and specifically the costs associated with accessing a postsecondary degree. Countries around the world take different approaches to how they organize universities and how much students pay for tuition or other fees. In the West, countries like Canada and the U.S. require students to pay significant amounts of tuition fees in order to enroll in universities.

Questions to Consider

What is the difference between private and public institutions?

One of the most common themes that will arise is the difference between private and public institutions. Proposition and Opposition teams are highly encouraged to research both types of institutions to determine their pros and cons. For some initial context, private institutions are those universities that do not receive a lot of tax funding, and most of their revenue is drawn from students paying tuition. On the other hand, public institutions are those that receive significant government funding, and prospective students pay little to no fees for enrollment. To what extent should the government play a role in funding universities is a crucial topic of discussion.

Where will the funding come from?

Funding is a vital factor that cannot be ignored within this debate. If taxpayer money is to be used here, it does mean that funding on other projects will likely be suspended, so it is important to use well-researched evidence to determine what the priority is for taxpayer money. Additionally, proposition and opposition must consider the implications of funding projects in the long-run. How high are the risks of debt? Are citizens ready to pay higher and higher taxes if the university urgently needs more funding to maintain its service in the future?

What impact will free university education have on student life?

Both sides will also likely present differing arguments on how students themselves are affected by free university education. Both sides are encouraged to research how free services impact people's behaviours, consumer demands, and decision-making.

What are potential solutions to prevent overburdening of a free education system?

Some economists argue that one of the major risks of providing free services is the risk of overburdening the system through extremely high demands. Similar to the healthcare system, the effects can potentially be devastating, given that the education system is already quite overburdened. Therefore, both sides are encouraged to research the impacts of free public services and how they change important economic factors, such as supply, price, and demand.

Links:

[Why "Free College" is a Terrible Idea](#)

[Don't Ruin College by Making It Free](#)

[Why Free College Is Necessary](#)

[Is free college a good idea? Increasingly, evidence says yes](#)

