

Argument-Centered Education -- Counter-Argument Builder

Other Side's Overall Position: Public college in the United States should not be free.

Other Side's Argument (Claim Plus Evidence/Reasoning)	Federal and state governments cannot afford to offer free public college for all. Estimates are that free public college could cost as much as \$1 trillion per year. The federal debt has reached \$19 trillion and state governments are in financial crisis due to their pension obligations.
Counter-Argument	Free public college will eventually pay for itself: the cost to taxpayers will be made up by the increase in tax revenues from a growing economy.
Evidence and Reasoning or Critique of Their Evidence or Reasoning	"Advocates for free public college point to economic models that suggest that the impact on the American economy of having as many as 50% more college graduates in the work force may increase annual GDP by as much as 1.5%. They reason further that in an \$18 trillion yearly economy, that equates to nearly \$300 billion of additional output, more than enough (they say) to fund open college for all" (Frank Bruni, New York Times, August 29, 2016). Because the economic upside of free public college is so great, its cost will be entirely made up for. This is apart from the improvement to our democracy that free public college would have.
Counter-Argument	Making college free is a matter of governmental priorities.
Evidence and Reasoning or Critique of Their Evidence or Reasoning	None of the negative evidence says that a combination of federal and state government funding wouldn't be possible. Their evidence simply says that government is spending lots and lots of money on other things. We think that the government should make public college for all a priority. Donald Trump, for instance, wants to increase the military budget by \$54 billion. Bad idea. Shift all of that unnecessary spending to making college available to all Americans.