

---

# Forgiving Student Debt

---

## **Videos:**

“How To Convince Your Friends That Cancelling Student Debt Is A Good Idea — With Elizabeth Warren”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtfG9D9tA\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtfG9D9tA_M) (2:45 minutes)

“Don’t Forgive Student Debt”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0q48P615m0> (4:25 minutes)

## **Guide:**

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

## **Analysis Questions:**

1. What are the opposing ideas in these two videos?
2. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
3. Emma Camp said that “lots of people carrying student debt don’t even have a degree.” Did you know this before watching this video? Does it change your view of student debt?
4. Elizabeth Warren said that cancelling student loan debt would help the economy, because people burdened with that debt would have more money to spend on other things. Is spending good for the economy? Why/Why not?
5. Emma Camp said that in order to cancel student loan debt entirely, the government would need to “[print] more than a trillion dollars, thus driving up inflation....” What is inflation?
6. Elizabeth Warren said: “College debt is a racial justice issue.” What did she mean by this?
7. Emma Camp said that one-time cancellation of student loan debt is unfair to “those who already worked for years to successfully pay off their loans.” Why is it unfair? Should we not cancel existing loans because some people have already paid theirs off? Why/Why not?
8. Elizabeth Warren said that student loan servicing companies “are making millions off the backs of people in debt.” Do you think it’s morally wrong for companies to profit from loans? Why/Why not? What would happen if companies were not allowed to profit from loans?

9. Emma Camp said that President Biden has suggested forgiving the loans of people who work in public service. Do you think this is a good idea? Why/Why not?
10. Elizabeth Warren said the student loan problem has gotten worse because states are investing less money in higher education. Do you think state governments should spend tax money to make it easier for people to go to college? Why/Why not?
11. Emma Camp said student loan forgiveness could discourage people from “taking a more prudent path.” What did she mean by this?
12. Elizabeth Warren said President Biden can cancel student loan debt by executive order. What is an executive order?
13. Emma Camp said that federal loans have encouraged colleges to raise their tuition prices. What was her explanation for this? Could ending federal loans help solve the student debt crisis? Why/Why not?
14. Both videos recognize student debt as a major problem, but have very different solutions to this problem. Is there room for compromise here, or are the two positions irreconcilable? Why/Why not?
15. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
16. What else would you like to learn about this topic?
17. For more on this topic, check out another Both Sides of the Issue entry, “Should We Cancel Student Debt?” <https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-should-we-cancel-student-debt/>