

# Andrea Bowers, *Education Should Be Free* (UC Davis), 2021 | Resources

The following are resources and possible discussion questions faculty and TAs can use in conjunction with the neon installation, *Education Should Be Free* (UC Davis), Andrea Bowers. While the museum is closed, students are encouraged to visit the exhibition website or view the neon safely from the museum's outdoor Events Plaza.

## Discussion Questions

1. What does the slogan Education Should Be Free mean to you?
2. What is the cost of a free education? Can an education ever really be free?
3. How do you envision free education? What does it look like? Who does it serve?
4. What are the barriers to an education, besides cost? How do we provide open access to learning opportunities?
5. Part of Andrea Bowers' practice is to use brightly colored neon slogans to bring awareness to social and political issues. What is the next slogan she should create? Why? And where should it hang?
6. What is something you currently receive for free? Would you be willing to give it up in exchange for a free education?

## Reading Resources

**Brooks, David.** "We Need National Service. Now." *The New York Times*. May 7, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/07/opinion/national-service-america-coronavirus.html/>.

**"California master plan for higher education." University of California Office of the President.** Accessed April 19, 2021. <https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/content-analysis/academic-planning/california-master-plan.html>.

**Dawsey, Jill.** "Andrea Bowers's History Lessons." *Afterall: A Journal of Art, Context and Enquiry* 14 (Autumn/Winter 2006): 18-26. Accessed April 19, 2021. <https://www.afterall.org/article/andrea.bowers.history.lesson>.

**Douglas-Gabriel, Danielle, and John D. Harden.** "The faces of student debt." *The Washington Post*. April 6, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/04/06/who-owes-student-debt/>.

**Elias, Jacquelyn.** "Who Holds America's \$1.3-Trillion Student-Loan Debt?" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. March 3, 2020. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/who-holds-americas-1-5-trillion-student-loan-debt/>.

**Escobar, Arturo.** *Designs for the Pluriverse. Radical Interdependence, Autonomy, and the Making of Worlds*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2018.

**Gosling, Lucinda, Hilary Robinson, and Amy Tobin.** *The Art of Feminism: Images That Shaped the Fight for Equality, 1857-2017*. Edited by Helena Reckitt. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2018.

**Matthews, Dylan.** “Everything you need to know about college costs.” Vox. Vox Media, June 3, 2015. <https://www.vox.com/2015/2/9/18088944/college-costs/>.

**McClanahan, Annie.** “The Living Indebted: Student Militancy and the Financialization of Debt.” *Qui Parle: Critical Humanities and Social Sciences* 20, no. 1 (Fall/Winter 2011): 57-77.

**Ripley, Amanda.** “Why Is College in America So Expensive?” *The Atlantic*. September 11, 2018. <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2018/09/why-is-college-so-expensive-in-america/569884/>.

**Sadler, Simon et al.** “Field Notes on Pandemic Teaching: 2.” *Places Journal*, April 2020. Accessed April 19, 2021. <https://placesjournal.org/article/field-notes-on-pandemic-teaching-2/>.

“Use the Data.” Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. National Center for Education Statistics. Accessed April 19, 2021. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data/>.

**Zuckerman, Heidi.** *Conversations with Artists*. Aspen: Aspen Art Press, 2017.

## Other Resources

*Art and the Environment: Andrea Bowers on Collaborating with the Leonardo di Caprio Foundation.* Leonardo di Caprio Foundation. March 5, 2018. YouTube, 4:21. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiaNbkzkxcQ/>.

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[Keep California's Promise](#)