

Documents 2a and 2b: Trump v. Universities

Document 2a: Trump wants to stop money for Harvard University – level 2

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President Trump says Harvard may lose its tax-free status. He also froze more than 2 billion dollars in government money.

This happened after Harvard said no to the government's demands. Trump says protests at the university show it allows antisemitism. His team wants big changes in how Harvard hires teachers and chooses students. Some people wonder why Harvard gets public money when it is already very rich.

Harvard uses the money for research in science and medicine. Experts say the government didn't follow the right steps. Before taking away money, they needed to show proof and talk to the school first. Harvard says it will fight back. What happens in court could change how the government works with other schools, too.

After reading this short text, explain what Donald Trump wants and how he intends to achieve his goal.

To read the Level 3 article and watch the original video news about this issue, scan the QR code:



Document 2b: A deal with Harvard University is close, Trump says

By —Collin Binkley, Associated Press, PBS New, Sep 30, 2025

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that his administration is close to reaching a deal with Harvard University, which it has targeted with a series of investigations and billions of dollars in funding cuts as it presses for changes to its policies and governance.

5 A **truce** with the country's oldest and **wealthiest** college would end a clash that has tested the independence of America's colleges.

Trump came into office saying he would cut funding for schools that defied his agenda, vowing to eliminate "wokeness." His pressure campaign **zeroed in on** the Ivy League institution after it **rebuffed** his demands.

10 Trump initially said a deal had been reached but then said officials were "close to finalizing" the agreement. "We haven't done it yet," he said at the White House.

Trump said the agreement includes a \$500 million payment from Harvard that would be used to create "a giant trade school, a series of trade schools that would be run by Harvard." Trump described it as an investment to revive trade schools and produce workers for American plants.

Chapter Two: Trump 2.0

- 15 “They’re going to be teaching people how to do AI and lots of other things,” Trump said. [...]

A deal would open the door to a resolution of sanctions that have included cuts to more than \$2.6 billion in Harvard’s research **grants**, losses of federal contracts, and efforts to cut off the school’s ability to **enroll foreign** students.

- 20 Earlier this month, a federal judge in Boston ordered the Trump administration to reverse the cuts to research funding, ruling the cuts amounted to illegal retaliation for Harvard’s rejection of the administration’s demands. The government had tied the funding freezes to Harvard’s delays in dealing with antisemitism, but the judge said the university’s federally backed research had little connection to discrimination against Jews.
- 25 The Trump administration previously has struck agreements with Columbia and Brown to resolve investigations into **allegations** of civil rights violations and restore federal research funding.

1) Vocabulary and cultural references

a) Match each word with its synonym or translation

Truce (l.4)	Accusations
Wealthiest (l.4)	<i>bourses</i>
Zeroed in on (l.7)	Focus on
Rebuffed (l.8)	<i>Inscribe</i>
Grants (l.18)	International, from abroad
Enroll (l.19)	Rejected
Foreign (l.19)	Richest
Allegations (l.26)	Stop in war

b) What is the “Ivy League” (l.7)?

c) What are Columbia and Brown (l.25)?

2) Understanding the text

a) True or False? Justify by Quoting the text

- Trump and Harvard have signed a deal.
- The agreement includes funding the creation of a school to train future workers who will work in factories.
- Columbia and Brown have refused a deal with Trump.
- A recent court decision found that Trump’s funding freezes were illegal

b) Why is Donald Trump attacking Harvard?

c) How does he intend to achieve his goal?

3) Going further

- a) What could be the impact of Trump’s interference with universities?

Document 3: video - Moments from Pete Hegseth's speech to military commanders

Pete Hegseth, speaking to military commanders in Quantico, Virginia Tuesday (30 September 2025), announced directives for troops



1. **Before watching the video:**
 - a. Who is Pete Hegseth?
 - b. Can you guess the sort of directives he wants to give to commanders?
2. **Watch the video and summarise** his message: what is the problem and how does he intend to change things?
3. **Analysis:** how does this message reflect a broader shift?
4. What is your **reaction**? (Do you agree?)

Document 4: No Kings Protest, 18 October 2025

- a) What is the “No Kings Protest” that took place on 18 October?
- b) Have you heard about Trump’s reaction to the protest?
- c) Watch this video and comment on Trump’s communication strategy:

