

Expression key: M= method, E= English

+M good idea, good link, good example -M unclear, wrong, copied from text
+ E a complex form well used -E simple mistake **E** the most serious mistakes

-E 1. Conjugation, pronouns

-E 2. adjectives are invariable / each + singular/ this-that-these-those/ to-for / who-which

Key words

THE Trump administration, ø Harvard, eNemy, ø higher education

Uncountables: funding, research

Type of document/ point of view

1. article/ opinion piece, Republicans punishing universities 2. article/ opinion piece, Harvard fighting back but not necessarily succeeding 3. cartoon, Trump as monster 4. graph, the huge rise in the cost of university education.

Centrale

Trump Vs the universities

"The universities are the enemy," declared J. D. Vance in 2021, now the Vice-President of the US. How much of a threat is the Trump administration to American universities, particularly the Ivy League? This corpus helps us to tackle this question and is made up of four documents. Two 2025 articles — one from Politico (from which this quote was taken) written by Irie Senter and the other from The Washington Post — examine how and why Trump wants to punish universities, as does a cartoon published in The Week. The last document is slightly different: published in 2023, it is a graph showing rising costs at universities.

Higher education has long been attacked by Republicans, with Senter quoting President Nixon who claimed that academics were "the enemy" in 1972. Indeed, universities have been accused of promoting ideological "woke" theories such as critical race theory. Recent anti-war protests on Ivy League campuses like Columbia have only increased Republicans' anger, with complaints of antisemitism, even though this claim was rejected by Judge Burroughs quoted in the Washington Post. In this fight, Republicans are supported by their base: an increasing number of non graduates voted for Trump in 2024, explains Senter. The graph shows one possible source of anger: skyrocketing tuition fees, which have increased far more than overall inflation, especially since the 2000s.

Republicans thus feel legitimate in attacking universities on multiple fronts. This is best illustrated by the cartoon in which a monster-like Trump surrounds the Harvard campus with vines, thus isolating it and creating a stranglehold. Indeed, one way of limiting the power of universities is by cutting their funding including \$400 million from Columbia (Senter) and or freezing \$2 billion for Harvard (the Washington Post). Other possible punishments include limiting international students or refusing visas.

Elite universities are now struggling to react. In the cartoon, two tiny figures on top of the Harvard building contemplate the scene below and note that the strangling plant is not "ivy", a reference to the group of elite universities Harvard belongs to. Indeed, the Ivy League universities are losing their power: even though Harvard won its case against the Trump administration, the latter can still cause the university great harm (the Washington Post). Given the opposition universities face — not

just from the administration but from many voters — these institutions cannot just continue as before. Not only are they obliged to cut research programmes, but also, they may need to rethink tuition costs (graph) and their political presentation. The Trump monster is attacking their elite position (cartoon), making them extremely vulnerable. (430w)

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The /elite position of the Ivy League is thus being attacked, making these universities extremely vulnerable. (473w)