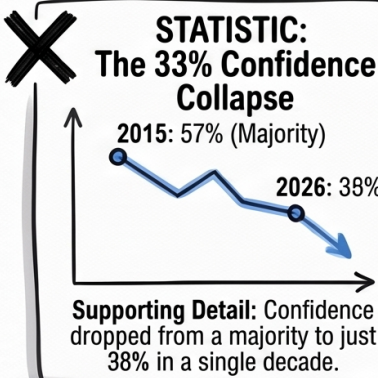


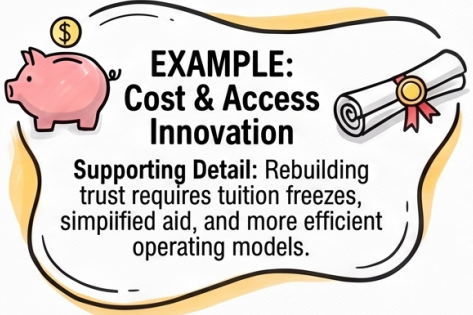
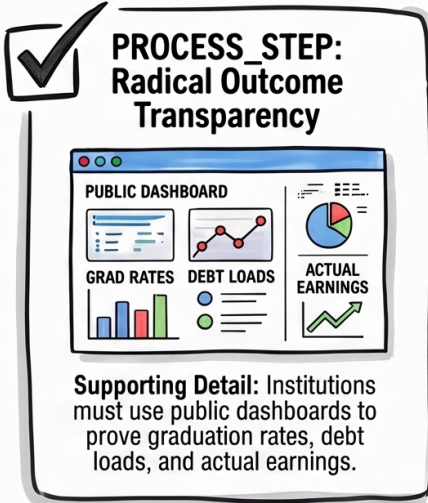
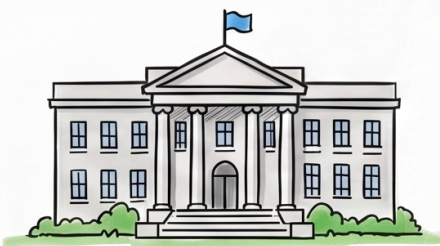
RECLAIMING THE IVORY TOWER: SOLVING THE HIGHER EDUCATION CONFIDENCE CRISIS

THE EROSION OF TRUST



Context Summary: Public confidence in U.S. higher education plummeted from 57% in 2015 to 38% in 2026. This crisis stems from specific concerns regarding cost, politicization, and workforce relevance—factors now intensified by the rise of AI.

STRATEGIES FOR RESTORATION



VALUE vs. SKEPTIC DRIVERS	
VALUE DRIVER (Confidant)	SKEPTIC DRIVER (Skeptic)
Critical Thinking (33%)	Institutional Politicization (31%)
Citizenship Prep (30%)	Exploitative Cost Structures (30%)
Job Opportunities (19%)	Inadequate Career Pathways (23%)

