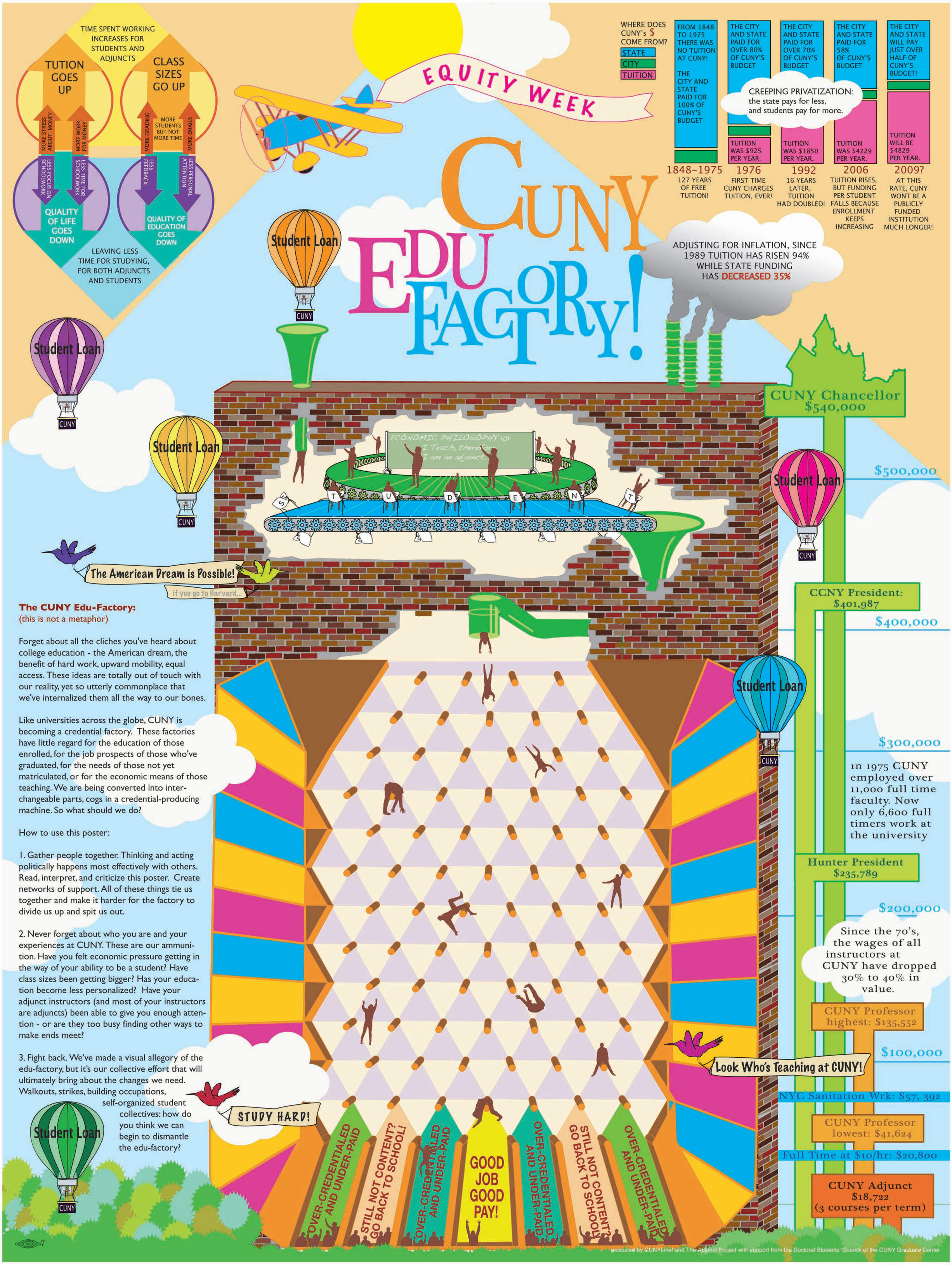

The CUNY Edu-Factory:
(this is not a metaphor)

Forget about all the cliches you've heard about college education - the American dream, the benefit of hard work, upward mobility, equal access. These ideas are totally out of touch with our reality, yet so utterly commonplace that we've internalized them all the way to our bones.

Like universities across the globe, CUNY is becoming a credential factory. These factories have little regard for the education of those enrolled, for the job prospects of those who've graduated, for the needs of those not yet matriculated, or for the economic means of those teaching. We are being converted into interchangeable parts, cogs in a credential-producing machine. So what should we do?

How to use this poster:

1. Gather people together. Thinking and acting politically happens most effectively with others. Read, interpret, and criticize this poster. Create networks of support. All of these things tie us together and make it harder for the factory to divide us up and spit us out.

2. Never forget about who you are and your experiences at CUNY. These are our ammunition. Have you felt economic pressure getting in the way of your ability to be a student? Have class sizes been getting bigger? Has your education become less personalized? Have your adjunct instructors (and most of your instructors are adjuncts) been able to give you enough attention - or are they too busy finding other ways to make ends meet?

3. Fight back. We've made a visual allegory of the edu-factory, but it's our collective effort that will ultimately bring about the changes we need. Walkouts, strikes, building occupations, self-organized student collectives: how do you think we can begin to dismantle the edu-factory?