
Airbnb: Good or Bad?

Segment Length: 5:43 minutes; 6:29 minutes

Videos:

“Adam Ruins Everything- Why Your Airbnb May Be Illegal”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0eTLdQ1cQc>

“Airbnb Rental Breaking City Rules”

See website: https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both_sides/

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. In the first video Adam Conover argues that Airbnb endangers guests. How are guests who stay in an Airbnb endangered?
2. Stephen Palmer accuses those opposed to Airbnb, like Shayne Wittwer, of protectionism. What does he mean? Why does Wittwer feel that competing with Airbnb rentals is unfair?
3. The Palmers note that they are not absentee landlords. Why is this a meaningful distinction when it comes to the quality of life of those living near an Airbnb rental site?
4. According to Adam Conover Airbnb drives up rental rates for residents. How does an increased supply of housing available to visiting guests affect the rental rates for residents?
5. Why might travelers have a more favorable opinion of Airbnb than renting residents?
6. Stephen Palmer argues that the government shouldn't be able to regulate what he does with his property so long as he doesn't violate anyone's rights. How might Adam Conover respond?
7. Why does Adam Conover say that Airbnb enables crooks?
8. If vacationers are willing to pay higher prices than locals, what does that reveal about the most valued use for housing assets? The Palmers noticed that their big house was an under-utilized asset. How does a service like Airbnb affect the supply of housing space?

9. Adam Conover claims that landlords would like to convert every apartment into an Airbnb. Absent regulations, why might owners reserve some apartments for long-term renting?
10. Who gains from the use of Airbnb? Who loses?