
Are the Trump Tariffs Good for America?

Segment Length: 2:00 minutes; 4:33 minutes

Videos:

“Big Labor Praises President Trump for Tariff Decision”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di6_1f79sSc

“Will Tariffs Hurt Americans?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TS5bi7yYE4>

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, Donald Trump says, “if you don’t have steel, you don’t have a country.” What does this mean? What is President Trump’s argument?
2. What is John Stossel saying about iPhones and avocados?
3. What positive effects could tariffs have on the economy? How could tariffs produce these effects?
4. What negative effects could tariffs have on the economy? How could tariffs produce these effects?
5. John Stossel says America is better off if we specialize in the goods that America can produce most efficiently. Why might that be the case?
6. Those in support of President Trump’s steel tariffs say levying tariffs will stop cheating that has occurred in the economy. What do they mean by “cheating”? How could tariffs stop this “cheating”?
7. Enacting tariffs on steel have also been defended as an action to support national security. How could steel tariffs make America more secure, according to some?
8. Would John Stossel agree with President Trump that steel tariffs are effective in protecting American jobs in the steel industry?
9. John Stossel says consumers will be hurt by tariffs, but tariffs are paid by those exporting their goods to the United States. How is the American consumer harmed?