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# Charter Schools: Good or Bad?

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Segment Length: 4:38 minutes; 7:31 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Corporations Get Rich off Children with Charter Schools”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMioWnzh08M>

“Charter Schools Improve Education”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw\\_Mk0EpNls](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw_Mk0EpNls)

## **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. John Stossel reports on charter schools that outperform their public counterparts. Based on the video, how might The Young Turks react to this?
2. According to The Young Turks, why might corporations favor turning public schools into charter schools?
3. John Stossel shows that public school spending has increased over decades while student learning has remained stagnant. Why would this fact support a pro-charter stance?
4. The Young Turks say that campaign finance laws make politicians dependent on corporate interests to get elected. How does this relate to their point about charter schools?
5. John Stossel reports that charter schools are often free from rules imposed by teachers' unions. Why is this significant, according to Stossel's report?
6. How does Cenk Uygur explain the “inefficiency” of charter schools that he reports?
7. How do John Stossel and Cenk Uygur explain why charter schools might be more willing to embrace technology in the classroom than are public schools?
8. Cenk Uygur says he was surprised to learn that charter schools do not, on average, outperform public schools as he expected. According to Uygur, why would it make sense for charter schools to perform better than their public counterparts?

9. John Stossel shows two charter schools that look quite different from one another. Why might some parents find the diversity of approaches found in charter schools appealing? Why might some see this as problematic?