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# Should We Have Single-Payer Healthcare?

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Segment Length: 3:13 minutes; 5:21 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Robert Reich: It’s Time for Medicare for All”

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

“Single-Payer”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8neTAW256Wo>

## **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. Chris Pope says that socialized medicine would pay for everyone’s healthcare – even those who can afford to buy their own insurance. If the object is to help those who cannot afford medical care, why does Robert Reich support an all-encompassing system rather than just Medicare services for those who cannot afford insurance? What benefit is there to including everyone, according to Reich?
2. Robert Reich says that single-payer healthcare can save money over the private insurance alternative because Medicare does not have to earn profits. Why might profit-earning make private companies more effective?
3. The two videos disagree as to whether healthcare quality could be improved by a socialized approach. What reasoning do Robert Reich and Chris Pope offer to support their arguments?
4. Robert Reich notes that private insurance companies spend more on marketing than Medicare. Why might this be a mark against private insurance? How could this be argued as a point in the favor of private insurance?
5. Why does Chris Pope say that under a single-payer system the government could deny care and place patients on waitlists? What might be Robert Reich’s response given his statement that private insurance companies try to attract healthy people while avoiding sick people?

6. Chris Pope suggests that the American insurance system should go way from employer-provided care and more toward more individual responsibility and choice. What's wrong with the current, employer-based system?
7. Looking at countries with single-payer healthcare, Chris Pope tells John Stossel that crises, long waits, and doctors and nurses going on strike are common. How could socialized medicine be responsible for this?
8. John Stossel often talks about the inefficiency and bureaucracy of government services. Using the talking-points from his video, how could Robert Reich respond?
9. What are economies of scale? Why does Robert Reich say that economies of scale could lower healthcare costs?