
Should We Have Withdrawn from the Paris Agreement?

Segment Length: 5:53 minutes; 4:23 minutes

Videos:

“The Paris Accord: What is it? And What Does it All Mean?”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr2J_1J9w3A

“The Paris Climate Fraud”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yoMAvt-RSk>

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 Hank Green says the Paris Climate Agreement is important because all nations must agree to make changes to their carbon emissions, or no one benefits. How could this statement be used to argue in favor of the Climate Agreement? How might Oren Cass use this statement to argue against the Climate Agreement?
2. Hank Green tells us that the Paris Climate Agreement is considerably weakened without the United States. What do you think Oren Cass would say in response?
3. The poorest countries are the most affected by climate change, according to Hank Green. Why wouldn't climate change have an equal impact on all nations regardless of their wealth?
4. Oren Cass claims that the United States was the only country whose Paris Climate pledge was ambitious because other nations were, at best, promising to do what they were already going to do. Would Hank Green agree?
5. Use Oren Cass's comments to John Stossel to respond to the following objection as he might: While the Paris Climate Agreement may have been imperfect, the pledges were not enforced; the U.S. gained nothing by leaving.
6. Hank Green tells us that the U.S. was, until recently, on target to meet its Paris Agreement pledge. How could this be used to argue that the U.S. remaining in the Paris

Agreement was important for reducing global carbon emissions. How might Oren Cass employ this to argue that the U.S. was right to withdraw?

7. John Stossel says the solution to climate change isn't to force emissions cuts in the U.S. while other countries do nothing. How could Hank Green argue that Stossel's statement means the United States should have remained in the Paris Climate Agreement?
8. Hank Green contends that the world is better off if we incentivize change now, globally. How could the Paris Climate Agreement provide that incentive? How could Oren Cass's statements be used to argue that the Paris Agreement is destructive to that incentive?