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# Should We “Buy American”?

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Segment Length: 3:51 minutes; 5:36 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Million American Jobs Project”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=it0EYBBI5LI>

“Buy American’ Is Nonsense”

See website: [https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both\\_sides/](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. The first video claims that when jobs are outsourced to another country, they bring more jobs with them. How could this happen?
2. What are “thinking jobs” described in the first video? Why might these jobs also get outsourced?
3. How could consumers reverse the flow of jobs by buying American, according to the first video?
4. David Henderson says we should buy things where they are cheapest without any fear of destroying American jobs. What happens to the savings from buying cheap, foreign products rather than goods made in America?
5. David Henderson says division of labor makes us better off, even when that means trading with foreigners. He says if buying American is good for America, then buying only in your state or city should be even better. What’s his argument as it relates to division of labor? How might someone on the other side of this issue respond?
6. Why is free trade coffee not the best way to ensure that overseas farmers earn a decent living, according to David Henderson?
7. What would happen to sweatshop workers if Americans stopped buying the goods they produce? Why would David Henderson say that sweatshops make both workers and consumers better off?