
The Government's Role in Protecting the Environment

Segment Length: 4:07 minutes; 2:50 minutes

Videos:

“Why Most Americans Support the EPA”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2Nmhcxf2k>

“Can Big Business Save the Trees (and the Bees)?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZ3gW2p4nUM>

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 from The Verge cites climate change and lead in drinking water affecting millions of Americans as reasons why the EPA must continue its work. Remembering the arguments from the FEE video, how might this be used to argue against the EPA?
2. How could collective ownership of a piece of land prevent that land from becoming polluted as the FEE video claims?
3. Scott Pruitt says the EPA's duties in preserving the environment should be returned to the states. How could this help the environment? How might it lead to more pollution?
4. The FEE video says government is not necessary for combatting pollution. What does the video from The Verge say that might offer a historical argument to the contrary?
5. The Verge video argues that the EPA is important for addressing the threats posed by climate change. How could the claims of the FEE video address this point?
6. According to The Verge, the EPA has some positive effects on the economy. How so?
7. What general principle does the FEE video proclaim concerning the relationship between the vested interest of ownership and care for the environment?