
The Impact of Rent Control

Segment Length: 1:17 minutes; 2:10 minutes

Videos:

“We Need Rent Controls Now”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47IE5Aiq9P8>

“The Real Reason Your Rent Is So High”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?&v=iCIQVIIWs5A>

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, Seb Klier says that many people are paying over half their wages in rent. According to the FEE video, how are rent prices set by supply and demand? What happens to rent prices when supply becomes limited?
2. Seb Klier tells us that rent control will keep prices down at very little cost to the state. What less visible costs are imposed by rent control?
3. Seb Klier says “we won’t solve the housing crisis without [rent controls].” How might the speaker in the FEE video respond?
4. According to Seb Klier, “high housing costs force people into overcrowded properties.” What alternative explanation for overcrowding is presented by the FEE video?
5. Supply and demand cause high renting prices when government policies limit supply, according to the FEE video. How might Seb Klier explain high renting prices differently?
6. The FEE video says price caps make it harder for landlords to earn a profit. Why is this bad according to the video? Would Seb Klier agree that this is bad?
7. Regulation makes housing more expensive, says the FEE video. Why do you suppose that is?
8. Seb Klier claims that rent controls would instantly improve the lives of millions of people. Does the FEE video contradict this? What might someone who opposes rent control point out in response?