
The COVID-19 Shutdown

Segment Length: 3:00 minutes; 4:43 minutes

Videos:

“Bill Gates Calls For National Shutdown of U.S. As Coronavirus Spreads”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoXVvTh8kgo>

“Coronavirus Overreach”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le_XVN6MPRE

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. John Stossel questions why Wyoming should follow the same pandemic rules as more populated states like New York. How would Bill Gates respond?
2. Bill Gates cites China’s strict shutdown policies as an example of a successful response to the pandemic, while John Stossel uses Sweden’s less strict approach as an example. Could both strategies work? Have you heard of any other strategies?
3. John Stossel’s concern is that government overreach is dangerous and unnecessary. How would Bill Gates respond?
4. Is it reasonable for the government to punish people who don’t comply with the shutdown/ Why/Why not?
5. Have you been complying with shutdown policies? What has been your experience?
6. Do you share John Stossel’s concern about government overreach?
7. Do you share Bill Gates’s concerns about an insufficient national shutdown?