
The Gig Economy

Segment Length: 4:06 minutes; 5:58 minutes

Videos:

“Big Win for Gig Economy Workers”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXiyB9jVKso>

“The Bill That Killed Freelance”

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

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 shows how California’s AB5 bill can make things more difficult for gig workers. How would the Young Turks respond?
2. The Young Turks argue that AB5 provides gig workers with necessary rights and protections. How would John Stossel respond?
3. John Stossel argues that the exemptions some industries have received is evidence that AB5 is bad for gig workers, while the Young Turks argue that it’s evidence of a problem in our political system. Evaluate these two arguments.
4. John Stossel says that bills like California AB5 could eliminate jobs in the gig economy. How would the Young Turks respond?
5. The Young Turks argue that freelance jobs hurt the overall labor force, but John Stossel argues that many people prefer freelance jobs to traditional employment. Do you think freelancing is a good option for workers? Why/Why not?