
What Should Be Done About Climate Change?

Segment Length: 7:29 minutes; 6:45 minutes

Videos:

“The Green New Deal, explained”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxIDJWCbk6I>

“Economics of climate change innovation | Bjørn Lomborg”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEjNVWV5jbs>

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 Green New Deal pushes to end the use of fossil fuels entirely. How would Bjørn Lomborg respond to that?
2. Bjørn Lomborg explains that big problems in the past were solved by innovation, not by taxes or banning. How would advocates for the Green New Deal respond?
3. Both Bjørn Lomborg and advocates for the Green New Deal recognize that many Americans would be hurt by laws prohibiting or restricting the use of fossil fuels. Does this make you reconsider the value of fossil fuels? Why/Why not?
4. Both sides agree that the current approach to climate change is ineffective. Do you agree with them? Why/Why not?
5. The Green New Deal’s goals include investing heavily in green energy, and in protecting Americans who would be vulnerable once fossil fuels are no longer used. Lomborg believes that investing in research is the solution. Which side do you agree with? Is there a middle-ground?