
Jobs and Open Borders

Segment Length: 3:51 minutes; 3:33 minutes

Videos:

“Bernie Sanders: ‘Open borders? That’s a Koch brothers proposal’”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf-k6qOfXz0>

“Immigration Myths Debunked | LearnLiberty”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtRmS7q9DIM>

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. What are the opposing viewpoints in these two videos?
2. Should one argument hold more weight than the other? Why/Why not?
3. Bernie Sanders said that open immigration would make everyone in America poorer. What did he mean by this?
4. Ben Powell mentioned “the fallacy of the seen and the unseen.” What is that?
5. Bernie Sanders says that an open borders immigration policy would be “doing away with the concept of a nation state.” Do you agree? Why/Why not?
6. Ben Powell says that many immigrants have different skillsets than natural born citizens, and that these skillsets complement each other. How would Bernie Sanders respond?
7. Bernie Sanders says that open borders would make people in this country poorer. How would Ben Powell respond?
8. Ben Powell showed that immigration does not create long-term unemployment. Does this disprove Bernie Sanders’ arguments? Why/Why not?
9. Bernie Sanders says that open borders is a right wing policy. Is this true? Do you associate open immigration policies with right wing politicians?
10. Ben Powell said that the only negative impact immigration has on wages is lowering the wages of people without high school diplomas by a very small amount. Is this enough to justify restrictive immigration policies? Why/Why not?

11. Bernie Sanders says we should help the global poor by helping them get better jobs, education, and healthcare. Would open borders achieve this? Why/Why not?
12. Ben Powell said that when immigrants come to America, “we become more productive, and they become more productive.” Why is this?
13. Before watching these videos, had you considered open borders?
14. Have these videos changed your opinion of immigration? If so, how?
15. What else would you like to learn about immigration?