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 with Ben Powell”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezmzE8LYi8k

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. Bernie Sanders says that open immigration would make everyone in America poorer. How would Ben Powell respond?
2. Ben Powell says that we don’t have a fixed pool of jobs, and that more jobs are created as more people enter the workforce. How would Bernie Sanders respond?
3. 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?
4. 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?
5. Bernie Sanders says that open borders would make people in this country poorer. How would Ben Powell respond?
6. Ben Powell points out that immigrants don’t just take jobs, they also demand goods and services, which can prevent wages from lowering. How would Bernie Sanders respond?
7. Bernie Sanders says that open borders is a right wing policy. Is this true? Do you associate open immigration policies with right wing politicians?
8. Ben Powell says that nobody knows the optimal number of immigrants in America, and that the market should figure that out through freedom of movement. How would Bernie Sanders respond?
9. 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?

10. Ben Powell compares international immigration to moving between states in America. Is this a good analogy? Why/Why not?

11. Before watching these videos, had you considered open borders?

12. Have these videos changed your opinion of immigration? If so, how?