
Poverty Revisited

Videos:

“Investments to End Poverty in 4 minutes”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmR0OqsVgAA> (4:30 minutes)

“Libertarian Solutions Video Series Episode 1: The Solution to Poverty”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBg-LGUiU4Q> (5:38 minutes)

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 ideas in these two videos?
2. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
3. Tomasz Agencki said: “Money is like a claim check on wealth that can only be used when goods and services are available.” What did he mean by this?
4. According to Judith Randel, what amount of money earned per day marks the “international poverty line”?
5. Tomasz Agencki said that after the founding of the United States, Britain “rolled back many of its tariffs, taxes, and regulations.” How can that help a country build wealth?
6. According to Judith Randel, most of the people living in extreme poverty live in which two areas of the world?
7. What reason did Tomasz Agencki give for South Korea being wealthier than North Korea?
8. Judith Randel said that the majority of people living in extreme poverty live in countries with “very low government spending per person, nowhere near enough to end poverty.” What is the logic behind this statement? How can government spending end poverty?
9. Tomasz Agencki said: “Rapid population growth and high population density are not major factors in third world poverty either.” How could this be? If there are more people, shouldn’t there be less wealth to go around? Why/Why not?

10. Judith Randel said we need to “unbundle global aid” so that we better understand it. Had you heard about global aid in the past? If so, did you hear about the specifics of how it was used? Do you think it would be helpful to have more detailed information on global aid?
11. Tomasz Ajencki used Hong Kong as an example of economic freedom being more important than natural resources when it comes to building wealth. Did this example surprise you? Did you know about Hong Kong’s economic development and lack of resources? How does it impact your views on the possibilities of ending poverty?
12. At the end of the Development Initiatives video, what three things did Judith Randel say we must do to end extreme poverty?
13. Did you have an opinion of how to reduce poverty before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from either video that affects your views on this topic?
14. What could you learn about reducing poverty that might affect your view of this debate?
15. What else would you like to learn about reducing poverty?
16. Hear more thoughts on this topic in another entry in our Both Sides of the Issue series, “Reducing Poverty”: <https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-reducing-poverty/>
17. Hear more from Judith Randel on this topic in her TEDx Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50-ZeUSjRII>
18. Hear more from Tomasz Ajencki on this topic in the second episode of his Libertarian Solutions Video Series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ5PM-GMYs8>