

---

# Globalization Revisited

---

## **Videos:**

“The Lie That Costs Americans Their Jobs I 10 Economic Myths Debunked #6”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yt9rKP85CJk> (3:07 minutes)

“Free Trade Creates Prosperity”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eU96kROClk> (3:52 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. Robert Reich used the term “comparative advantage.” How did he define this term?
3. John Stossel said: “[T]rade creates losers and winners. It's easy to go to the factory site and cover the losers; they're all in one place. It's harder to report on the winners.” What did he mean by this?
4. Robert Reich said: “What if a country’s comparative advantage comes from people working under dangerous or exploitative conditions? Or from preventing them from forming labor unions? Or allowing employers to hire young children? Or from polluting the atmosphere or the ocean?” Should we be trading with countries that allow such practices? Why/Why not?
5. Stossel said: “Many people got jobs because of trade.” What reason did he give for this?
6. In Robert Reich’s video, Bill Clinton said: “[Globalization is] the economic equivalent of a force of nature, like wind or water.” What did he mean by this?
7. Stossel showed that prices of consumer goods have gone down steadily as global trade has increased. Why is that?
8. Robert Reich said: “Global trade is structured by rules negotiated between nations about which assets will be protected and which will not.” Would we be better off if we had free trade without any rules? Why/Why not?

9. Stossel said: "We have free trade within America, and yet all the companies don't move to Alabama, say, where the labor's relatively cheap." Is this a good comparison to global trade? Why/Why not?
10. Robert Reich said that trade agreements can include rules regarding intellectual property. What is intellectual property? What does intellectual property have to do with global trade?
11. Stossel mentioned the "double thank you moment." What did he mean by that?
12. Robert Reich said: "Global trade on its own is neither good nor bad, but the way trade is now conducted protects the wealth of those who already have it and burdens those who don't." Based on what you learned in his video, can you think of a version of global trade that Reich would consider good?
13. Stossel talked about trade deficits. What is a trade deficit? Are trade deficits a problem? Why/Why not?
14. Both videos discussed outsourcing. What is outsourcing?
15. John Stossel and Robert Reich both cited that the U.S. lost over 5 million manufacturing jobs after NAFTA was passed, but Stossel pointed out that the U.S. also added 19 million jobs. Is that context important? Why/Why not?
16. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
17. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
18. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
19. What else would you like to learn about this topic?