
Tariffs Revisited

Link:

<https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-tariffs-revisited/>

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. What is a tariff?
3. Rep. Tony Wied used the term “free and fair trade.” What did he mean by this?
4. Daniel Hannan said: "Tariffs are always popular because they're intuitive." What did he mean by this?
5. Rep. Wied said that President Trump was transparent about his tariff plan while campaigning for the presidency, and voters elected him. Is that enough to justify Trump’s tariffs? Why/Why not?
6. Daniel Hannan said there are three common arguments for tariffs. What were those arguments?
7. Rep. Wied said that the plan is to bring more jobs and manufacturing to the United States. How would tariffs do that?
8. Daniel Hannan said that if tariffs are bringing in revenue, they're not creating jobs. Why is that?
9. Rep. Wied said we should focus on “America first.” What did he mean by this? Should we be focused on “America first”? Why/Why not?
10. Daniel Hannan said that if tariffs are creating jobs, they're not bringing in revenue. Why is that?
11. Rep. Wied used the term “reciprocal tariffs.” What is a reciprocal tariff?
12. Daniel Hannan said tariffs aren't a tax on foreigners. Who did he say they are a tax on?
13. When asked about the responses from foreign leaders, Rep. Wied asked: “Why are the tariffs so high for us?” If other countries put tariffs on America, does that justify America enacting tariffs on them? Is it good for America? Why/Why not?

14. Daniel Hanna said that the 2018 tariffs were intended to be a negotiating tool, but they only led to more tariffs from foreign nations. If that's the case, why do you think U.S. politicians still insist that tariffs are a good negotiating tool?
15. Rep. Wied said America has been “taken advantage of for a long time.” What did he mean by this? Do you agree? Why/Why not?
16. Daniel Hannan said: “[T]ariffs, fundamentally, are like a suicide bomb.” What did he mean by this?
17. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
18. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
19. 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?
20. What else would you like to learn about this topic?
21. For more on this topic, see these previous editions of Both Sides of the Issue:
 - a. [The Impact of Tariffs](#)
 - b. [Are the Trump Tariffs Good for America?](#)