
Digging Deeper on Tariffs

Link:

<https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-digging-deeper-on-tariffs/>

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. In the MSNBC video, Oren Cass said “we do need, ultimately, to have high tariffs” on what country?
4. In the Stossel video, we saw a graph that showed that after Trump enacted tariffs on steel, the U.S. gained 1,000 jobs, but lost 75,000 jobs. What can be learned from this?
5. In the MSNBC video, Katy Tur mentioned some of the goals the Trump administration has given for the tariffs. What were some of those goals?
6. In the Stossel video, Scott Lincicome said: "Just simply mandating that stuff be made in America sounds great, but it's going to cost us a lot more." Why is that?
7. Oren Cass mentioned that one of the motivations behind the tariffs is to bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States. Is this a good motive? Why/Why not? Is it achievable? Why/Why not?
8. In Stossel video, John Stossel said that Victor Schwartz "scoffs at Trump's claim that other countries pay the tariffs." Who did Schwartz say pays them?
9. Oren Cass said: “[W]e have been taken advantage of in our trading relationships for a very long time.” What did he mean by this?
10. Victor Schwartz said: "You might be able to move a semiconductor plant to Michigan, but you can't make champagne in Oregon." What did he mean by this?
11. Oren Cass said the Trump administration wants “an alliance of countries that all agree ‘we aren’t really going to be trading a lot with China and doing a lot of investment with China.’” Why does the Trump administration want this? What would be the benefits? What would be the costs?

12. Victor Schwartz said: "Free trade is really a beautiful thing." Do you agree? Why/Why not?
13. Even if tariffs raise prices, is that worth it if they can be used as negotiating tools against other countries? Why/Why not?
14. Even if tariffs raise prices, is that worth it if they can be used to limit China's power? Why/Why not?
15. Should more products be manufactured in the United States? 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?
20. For more on this topic, see these previous editions of Both Sides of the Issue:
 - a. [Both Sides: The Impact of Tariffs](#)
 - b. [Both Sides: Tariffs Revisited](#)