Mamdani for Mayor?

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. In the CNN video, Elle Reeve described Zohran Mamdani as "an unapologetic progressive." What does "progressive" mean in this context?

3. In the Stossel video, Zohran Mamdani called himself a democratic socialist. What is a democratic socialist?

4. In the CNN video, Zohran Mamdani said that leadership in the Democratic Party "helped give rise to Donald Trump…." What did he mean by this? Do you agree? Why/Why not?

5. In the Stossel video, Zohran Mamdani described democratic socialism as "the commitment to dignity, a state that provides whatever is necessary for its people to live a dignified life." Do you think that's a fair definition? Why/why not?

6. In the CNN video, a Zohran Mamdani supporter said he's "sick of the status quo." What did he mean by this? Is it a good reason to support Mamdani? Why/Why not?

7. John Stossel said: "[T]he profit motive is exactly what keeps stores stocked, and why we spend much less on food than we did a hundred years ago." What did he mean by this? Do you agree? Why/Why not?

8. In the CNN video, a Zohran Mamdani supporter said he thinks Mamdani's opponent Andrew Cuomo "doesn't know how much a dozen eggs cost." What point was he making?

9. What was John Stossel's main argument against wealth taxes? Do you agree with the argument? Why/Why not?

10. In the CNN video, Elle Reeve asked Zohran Mamdani if Democrats in congress who are over the age of 80 should retire. How would you answer this question?

11. The Stossel video showed a chart labeled "the Laffer curve." What is the Laffer curve?

12. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?

13. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?

14. Had you heard of Zohran Mamdani before watching these videos?

15. What makes Zohran Mamdani appealing as a candidate?

16. What makes Zohran Mamdani unappealing as a candidate?

17. 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?

18. What else would you like to learn about this topic?

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