
Big Government and Big Business

Link:

<https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-big-government-and-big-business/>

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 Robert Reich video, Lina Khan said: "How free we feel is often tied to how we experience the economy." What did she mean by this? Do you agree? Why/Why not?
3. In the Stossel video, Tim Carney said: "Big business and big government are not enemies like a lot of people think they are." What did he mean by this?
4. Lina Khan said: "For too long, government stopped vigorously enforcing laws that protect our basic economic freedoms by keeping corporate America in check." What are our basic economic freedoms? Does corporate America threaten these freedoms? If so, how?
5. John Stossel said that big businesses can benefit from minimum wage increases, and some even lobby for them. What reason did he and Tim Carney give for this?
6. Lina Khan used the phrase "too big to care." What did she mean by this?
7. Tim Carney said: "Regulation doesn't just kill existing businesses, it keeps new businesses from ever entering." Should we be concerned about regulation discouraging new businesses from forming? Why/Why not?
8. Lina Khan explained that some companies have captured a large percentage of the market in their respective industries. Is this a problem? Why/Why not?
9. John Stossel talked about a law that required toymakers to do independent lead testing. According to Tim Carney, what was the downside to this law? Do you agree that the downside was significant? Why/Why not?
10. Lina Khan said that the Federal Trade Commission sued to block Albertson's and Kroger from merging. Why did the FTC do this? Was it justified? Why/Why not?

11. Tim Carney explained that Henry Heinz lobbied to ban sodium benzoate from food products. According to Carney, what was Heinz's motive for this? Do you agree with Carney, or do you think Heinz's motivation was altruistic? Why/Why not?
12. Lina Khan mentioned talked about non-compete clauses. What is a non-compete clause?
13. John Stossel said: "No business likes competition, but competition is what helps us consumers most." How does competition help consumers?
14. Both videos talked about the importance of competition. In what ways are John Stossel and Lina Khan's views on competition similar? In what ways are their views dissimilar?
15. Other than agreeing on the importance of competition, did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
16. What are the potential benefits of the government placing stricter regulations on businesses? What are the potential downsides?
17. What are the potential benefits of the government reducing regulations on businesses? What are the potential downsides?
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 installments of Both Sides of the Issue:
 - a. [Both Sides: Monopolies](#)
 - b. [Both Sides: Monopolies Revisited](#)