
Universal Child Care

Link:

<https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-universal-child-care/>

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 universal child care?
3. More Perfect Union said that universal child care “sounds like an unobtainable progressive dream.” Before learning more about it, did the concept of universal child care sound completely unrealistic? Why/Why not?
4. In the Reason video, Liz Wolfe said: "Of course, nothing is free, and government subsidies don't lower the cost of anything. It's just a change in who pays." What did she mean by that? Is it true? Why/Why not?
5. According to the More Perfect Union video, what historical event led to government-sponsored child care in the U.S.?
6. Liz Wolfe said that New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani's "political intuitions are good." What did she mean by that?
7. According to an Arizona State University study cited by More Perfect Union, what were the effects of the government-sponsored child care program?
8. Liz Wolfe said prioritizing families with existing relationships to daycare centers "gives parents a hack." What was that hack? Is it a problem? Why/Why not?
9. More Perfect Union said the starting budget of the 1971 Comprehensive Child Development Act was \$2 billion, and that the defense budget that year was almost \$74 billion. Should the U.S. spend less money on defense? Should it spend more on other programs? Why/Why not?
10. Liz Wolfe paraphrased Milton Friedman, asking: "Why do so many programs tend to benefit middle- and upper-income rather than the poor for whom they are supposedly intended?" According to the video, what was Friedman's answer to that question? Do you agree with his answer? Why/Why not?

11. According to More Perfect Union, Pat Buchanan called the Comprehensive Child Development Act “would be truly a long leap into the dark for the United States....” What did he mean by that? Do you agree with Buchanan? Why/Why not?
12. Liz Wolfe said that under existing programs, New York taxpayers pay for partially empty daycares that parents find undesirable. Why is that?
13. More Perfect Union said: “Now, of course, World War II was a different time in American history, a time of crisis. But look around; is now not a time of crisis?” Are we in a time of crisis? Why/Why not?
14. According to Liz Wolfe, Mayor Mamdani has proposed spending \$6 billion per year on universal child care. Is that reasonable? Why/Why not?
15. More Perfect Union argued that universal child care would fix some issues of inequality. What examples were given to support that argument? Do you agree with the argument? Why/Why not?
16. At the end of the Reason video, Liz Wolfe proposed ideas to cut the cost of child care. What were those proposals? What are the pros and cons of the proposals?
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?