



## Weekly Discussion Questions 2/10/2025

[Schrager, Daniel. \*Would Tariffs Affect Border States Such as Washington More Than Others?\* The Spokesman-Review, 9 Feb. 2025.](#)

### Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

**How do tariffs impact trade-dependent economies at the state level?** Washington State is highly reliant on international trade, with 40% of jobs tied to trade. In what ways do tariffs influence state economies differently, and what factors contribute to their varying effects?

**What are the broader economic and geopolitical consequences of a trade war?** When countries impose retaliatory tariffs, businesses, workers, and consumers all experience consequences. How do these policies affect global supply chains, diplomatic relations, and economic growth?

**Are tariffs an effective tool for economic protectionism, or do they cause more harm than good?** Tariffs are often used to protect domestic industries from foreign competition, but they can also lead to higher consumer prices and strained international relations. Under what circumstances, if any, do tariffs serve as a beneficial economic policy?

### Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

**How do tariffs impact different states differently?** Considering that Washington is one of the most trade-dependent states, discuss why some states might be affected more than others by tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada, and China.

**What are the potential consequences of a trade war?** If the U.S. imposes tariffs on other countries, those countries might respond with their own tariffs. How could this effect businesses, workers, and consumers in both the U.S. and abroad?

**Should the government prioritize protecting domestic industries or maintaining free trade?** Debate whether tariffs are a useful tool for protecting American jobs and industries or if they do more harm than good by increasing costs for consumers and businesses.

### Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8

**Why do some states depend more on trade than others?** Washington State relies a lot on trade. What are some reasons why certain states might be more affected by tariffs than others?

**What happens when countries put taxes (tariffs) on each other's goods?** If the U.S. makes it more expensive to buy things from other countries, those countries might do the same to U.S. products. How could this effect businesses, workers, and shoppers?

**Are tariffs a good or bad idea?** Some people think tariffs help American businesses, while others believe they make things more expensive for everyone. What do you think, and why?

### **Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5**

**Why do some places trade more than others?** Some states, like Washington, trade a lot with other countries. Why do you think some places need to trade more than others?

**What happens when countries make trade more expensive?** If the U.S. adds extra costs to things we buy from other countries, those countries might do the same to our products. How do you think this could change the prices of things we buy?

**Are extra taxes on traded goods (tariffs) a good or bad idea?** Some people think tariffs help businesses, while others think they make things cost too much. What do you think, and why?