



## Weekly Discussion Questions 4/28/2025

[Hanlon, James. "Canada Drops the Gloves in Tariff War." The Spokesman-Review, 27 Apr. 2025, pp. A1](#)

### Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

**Local Economic Vulnerabilities in Global Trade Disputes:** The U.S.-Canada tariff conflict described in the article shows how international trade policy directly impacts small towns and local economies. How do global economic decisions reveal vulnerabilities in local industries dependent on cross-border tourism and trade? What strategies could communities use to build greater resilience against these types of disruptions?

**Nationalism, Consumer Behavior, and Cross-Border Relationships:** The surge in national pride and "buy local" movements in Canada highlights how political tensions influence everyday consumer choices and cross-border relationships. In what ways can nationalism, fueled by trade disputes, reshape economic ties and cultural perceptions between neighboring countries?

**Strategic Responses for Tourism-Dependent Regions:** Tourism-dependent areas like Spokane and the Selkirk Loop are already feeling the effects of reduced cross-border traffic. What marketing, diplomatic, or policy approaches could cities and businesses adopt to maintain international tourism and community goodwill in times of political strain? How might these strategies differ depending on whether the conflict is short-term or long-term?

### Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

**How Do Tariffs Affect Local Communities?** The article describes how tariffs between the U.S. and Canada have caused fewer Canadian visitors to cross the border, hurting businesses in places like Spokane and small towns. Why do you think international trade policies can have such a big impact on local economies? Can you think of other examples where decisions made at the national level affected local communities?

**National Pride vs. Cross-Border Friendship:** Many Canadians are choosing to "buy local" and travel within Canada in response to U.S. trade policies, even though local businesses along the border still want

visitors from both countries. How can political tensions between countries affect relationships between everyday people? Should businesses get involved in promoting unity when governments disagree?

**Tourism and the Bigger Economic Picture:** Tourism is a major part of the economy in areas like Spokane and along the Selkirk Loop. Based on the article, what are some ways cities and businesses might respond when international events (like a tariff war) cause fewer visitors to come? What strategies could help rebuild trust and attract travelers again?

### **Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8**

**How Tariffs Change Local Life:** The article talks about how new tariffs between the U.S. and Canada are hurting small businesses because fewer Canadian visitors are coming to shop and travel. Why do you think rules about trade between countries can affect towns and cities? Can you think of other times when a big decision far away changed something in your community?

**Feelings Between Countries:** Because of the trade fight, some Canadians are trying to buy more Canadian products and take trips inside Canada instead of visiting the U.S. How can problems between governments change how people feel about each other? What could businesses or towns do to help people stay friendly even if their leaders disagree?

**Keeping Visitors Coming:** Tourism brings a lot of money and jobs to places like Spokane and towns along the Selkirk Loop. If fewer visitors come because of things like tariffs, what could cities or businesses do to encourage people to visit again? What would make you want to visit a new place?

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

**How Rules Between Countries Can Change Things:** The story talks about new rules (called tariffs) between the U.S. and Canada that are making fewer people visit towns and stores. How do you think big rules between countries can change what happens in small towns?

**How People Feel About Each Other:** Because of the trade fight, some people in Canada want to shop and travel only in their own country. How can problems between leaders make regular people feel upset? How can we stay kind to each other even if countries are arguing?

**Helping More Visitors Come:** Towns like Spokane and places near the border need visitors to help their businesses. If fewer people are visiting, what are some good ideas to help make people want to come back and have fun?