



Weekly Discussion Questions 5/19/2025

[Manning, Jeff. "EPA Pulls Gonzaga's Climate Grant Aimed at Protecting City's Vulnerable." *The Spokesman-Review*, 18 May 2025, p. A9.](#)

Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

Institutional Responsibility and Community Engagement: Gonzaga University's \$10 million federal grant underscores the potential for higher education institutions to play a central role in regional development. What ethical and strategic responsibilities do universities have in addressing the needs of their surrounding communities? How might this influence institutional priorities or public perception?

Public Funding and Policy Implications: The allocation of federal funds to private institutions raises important questions about policy and equity. Is it appropriate for public money to be directed toward a private university for community development purposes? What criteria should be considered when evaluating such investments?

Higher Education as an Agent of Social Change: Gonzaga's grant-supported initiatives aim to foster equity, opportunity, and workforce development. In what ways can colleges and universities serve as catalysts for social transformation? How can institutions ensure these initiatives are both inclusive and sustainable over time?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

Community Investment and Impact: Gonzaga University is receiving \$10 million in federal funding for community-focused initiatives. In your opinion, what responsibilities do universities have to invest in their surrounding communities? How might projects like this one influence the relationship between a university and the public?

Government Funding and Priorities: Federal funding is being used to support educational, workforce, and community development projects at Gonzaga. Do you think this is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars? Why or why not? What other types of projects should be prioritized when allocating federal grant money?

Higher Education as a Catalyst for Change: The article highlights Gonzaga's role in fostering equity and opportunity through its grant-funded initiatives. Discuss how higher education institutions can act as

agents of social change. Can you think of examples where a college or university played a key role in addressing local or national issues?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8

Helping the Community: Gonzaga University is getting money from the government to help with community projects. Why do you think it's important for schools or colleges to help their neighborhoods? How do you think this might make people feel about Gonzaga?

Spending Government Money: The government gave Gonzaga \$10 million to support programs that help people learn and find jobs. Do you think this is a good way to spend money? What are other ways you think the government should help people?

Making a Difference Through Education: Gonzaga wants to use the money to create more chances for people to learn and succeed. How can schools and colleges help solve problems in their communities? Can you think of a time when a school helped make something better where you live?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5

Helping Others: Gonzaga University is getting money to help people in their neighborhood. Why is it nice when schools or colleges help others? How would you feel if your school helped your town?

Spending Money to Help: The government gave Gonzaga a lot of money to help people learn and find jobs. If you could choose, what would you spend money on to help people? Why?

Schools Making a Difference: Schools can do big things to help their communities. Can you think of something your school has done to help others? What could your school do to make your community even better?