



Further Review: [Trump approves dispatching federal troops to Portland](#)

Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

Federalism and Constitutional Authority: The article highlights tensions between federal authority and state sovereignty. Under what constitutional grounds can the federal government deploy troops domestically, and how does this align or conflict with the principles of federalism? Evaluate historical precedents of federal intervention in local matters, such as the Civil Rights era or responses to civil unrest.

Political Rhetoric and Agenda-Setting: President Trump described Portland as “war ravaged,” while local accounts emphasized smaller-scale protests. How does the strategic use of rhetoric by political leaders function as an agenda-setting tool? In what ways can framing or exaggeration be used to justify political actions or policies?

Democratic Accountability and Public Trust: Oregon’s political leaders issued immediate responses to the announcement of federal troop deployment. To what extent are these statements acts of political theater versus genuine efforts to reassure constituents? How should scholars and citizens evaluate the balance between symbolic leadership and substantive governance during moments of conflict?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

Federal vs. Local Authority: The article describes a situation where the President authorized sending federal troops to Portland, while Oregon officials expressed concern. What are the potential benefits and risks of federal intervention in local protests? Do you think the federal government should have the power to step in without state approval?

Media Framing and Public Perception: The piece notes that President Trump characterized Portland as “war ravaged,” while local reports describe protests as involving “no more than several dozen people.” How can the way leaders and media frame events shape public perception? Why is it important to compare multiple sources when evaluating news?

Civic Response and Political Leadership: Oregon leaders responded quickly with statements after the announcement of federal troop deployment. Why is it important for political leaders to publicly respond to national decisions? How might these statements influence both citizens' confidence in local leadership and the broader political debate?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8

Federal and Local Disagreement: The article describes how the President wanted to send federal troops to Portland, while local leaders had concerns. Why might the President want to send federal troops, and why might local leaders disagree with that decision?

How Stories Are Told: Events can be described in very different ways depending on who is telling the story. What happens when leaders or news sources describe events differently? How does that affect how people see the truth?

Leading a City: If you were the mayor of Portland, what would you say to your community about the protests and the federal government's involvement?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5

Why People Protest: Sometimes people in a city protest because they want change. Why do you think people protest in their community?

Different Points of View: The President and local leaders didn't agree about what was happening in Portland. Why is it important to listen to more than one point of view?

Helping People Feel Safe: Imagine you were in charge of your town. If something scary was happening, what would you say to help people feel safe?