



## Free Trade and Barriers

### *Evaluating Trade Issues*

**Step 1:** Choose **two** different visual media items that express opinions about trade agreements, barriers to trade or free trade. The items must be from this past year. Organize information about each item in the charts below.

Visual Media Item A Title	Free Trade in Trouble
Who created it? When?	Paresh Nath Date Not Specified
Screenshot and/or how to access (URL)	

Visual Media Item B Title	USA – EU Free Trade Negotiations
Who created it? When?	Arend van Dam Date Not Specified
Screenshot and/or how to access (URL)	 <p>USA - EU Free Trade Negotiations</p>

**Step 2:** Analyze the message delivered by each of your visual media items. For **each** item, respond to the following questions in the charts below. Use complete sentences.

**Visual Media Item A Title (from Step 1) Free Trade in Trouble**

What is the issue discussed in this visual media item you chose?	The issue being addressed in this cartoon is the suffering of free trade throughout all the recent global catastrophes (pandemic, war trouble, etc.).
What is the creator's viewpoint on the issue? What details in the resource support the creator's claim? Provide evidence from the item to support your response.	<p>The creator's viewpoint is that free trade has suffered immensely the last few years, due to global problems such as trade wars, the pandemic, and war sanctions.</p> <p>In the cartoon it is shown that the truck is having trouble on its route because of big hills (each one representing a global problem), showing the struggle it is currently having.</p>
Does this viewpoint reflect a commitment to free trade or to protectionism? Explain your answer and include evidence from the item to support your response.	<p>This viewpoints reflects a commitment to free trade, as the goal of this cartoon is to show the struggles it faces, and why it is important.</p> <p>It further states "<i>we need to find a secured path,</i>" reflecting how these events are harming it and causing great problems around the world; furthermore that something needs to be done about it.</p>
Do you agree or disagree with the viewpoint of the item you chose? Why or why not?	<p>I agree with the viewpoint of this cartoon, as it is necessary for free trade to blossom. In order for people to get what they need without having to worry about shortages and other related issues, this is necessary. Think of how things are right now, just like that.</p> <p>However, it has to be done the right way in each country to benefit all.</p>

**Visual Media Item B Title (from Step 1) USA – EU Free Trade Negotiations**

What is the issue discussed in this visual media item?	The issue discussed in this cartoon is free trade negotiations between the United States and the EU.
What is the creator's viewpoint on the issue? What details in the resource support the creator's claim? Provide evidence from the item to support your response.	<p>The creator believes that the United States has the upper hand when it comes to negotiating free trade. From a monetary standpoint, the US dollar is trailing ahead over the Euro.</p> <p>The cartoon shows the US having stronger muscles than the EU, and is shown to be winning in the shown "match," indicating this monetary strength.</p>
Does this viewpoint reflect a commitment to free trade or to protectionism? Explain your answer and include evidence from the item to support your response.	This viewpoint reflects more of a commitment to protectionism. At the same time these negotiations do have an intent to expand free trade, however the US is not trying to defend other countries.
Do you agree or disagree with the viewpoint of the item you chose? Why or why not?	I don't fully agree with the viewpoint in this cartoon, as I feel that these negotiations should benefit all in some way. However, I do understand that it can be difficult to do so when each side is "trying" to do what is best for their people.

**Step 3:** Respond to the following reflection questions based on your understanding of free trade and protectionism. Use complete sentences.

**What are two benefits and two costs of free trade?**

Free trade has immense benefits such as fueling economic growth around the world, helping to better provide people with what they need at affordable costs, and helps to reduce conflict among others. However it does bring some downsides such as putting domestic suppliers out of business due to cheaper alternatives, as well as allowing companies to move to other places; which could lead to labor and environmental abuses.

**What is protectionism, and why would a country base trade policy on it? Explain with at least two reasons.**

Protectionism is when a country imposes regulations that restrict international trade, in order to protect their domestic industries. A country would implement this when unfair foreign competition is damaging their domestic industries. This allows a country to grow their industries until they can better compete against international ones, and it helps to balance out their trade.