



12th Grade Free Trade Inquiry

Is Free Trade Worth the Price?	
New York State Social Studies Framework Key Idea & Practices	12. E4 THE TOOLS OF ECONOMIC POLICY IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY: Globalization and increased economic interdependence affect the United States economy significantly. The tools that policy makers have available to address these issues are fiscal policy, monetary policy, and trade policy. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics and Economic Systems
Staging the Question	Participate in a trading simulation in order to understand why people trade and why trade is important.

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4
What are the arguments for free trade?	What are the arguments against free trade?	Why did the United States sign on to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?	Has NAFTA achieved its goals?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
List the arguments for free trade on one side of a T-chart.	List the arguments against free trade on the second side of the T-chart.	Write a paragraph detailing three reasons why the United States signed on to NAFTA.	Develop a claim with evidence about the extent to which NAFTA achieved its goals.
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
Source A: Excerpt from <i>Protection or Free Trade</i> Source B: Excerpt from <i>The Fruits of Free Trade</i> Source C: Video lecture on <i>Free Trade Versus Protectionism</i>	Source A: "Our Misplaced Faith in Free Trade" Source B: Excerpt from "Is Free Trade Passé?" Source C: Video interview and transcript of <i>Free Trade?</i>	Source A: Press conference on the North American Free Trade Agreement signing Source B: Selected remarks by Presidents Clinton, Bush, Carter, and Ford and Vice President Gore on signing of the NAFTA agreements	Source A: Excerpt from <i>The Effects of NAFTA on U.S.–Mexican Trade & GDP</i> Source B: NPR audio reports: <i>20 years of NAFTA</i> Source C: <i>Americans Are of Two Minds on Trade</i>

Summative Performance Task	<p>ARGUMENT Is free trade worth the price? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence with information from contemporary sources.</p> <p>EXTENSION Students could adapt the argument by holding a "fishbowl" debate in which students discuss the question "Should the United States continue the NAFTA?"</p>
Taking Informed Action	<p>UNDERSTAND Research the fair-trade movement and the principles underlying this recent economic initiative.</p> <p>ASSESS Identify businesses or organizations in the community that engage in or promote fair trade and evaluate their foothold in the community.</p> <p>ACT Organize a classroom forum that invites business and/or community leaders to discuss whether the country should engage in free trade, fair trade, or both.</p>