TradeVistas.org is your essential library of articles covering core trade policy topics for every classroom.

Supplement your academic materials with short explainers written by trade policy practitioners set in a real-world context.

Assign students to lead discussions covering the history, legal background and politics driving trade debates using these active learning methods:

- student debates
- case studies
- simulations

GET STARTED
A HIGH WIRE ACT: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND SECTION 232

- What is Section 232 and what does it authorize the President to do? Under what circumstances?
- How has this authority traditionally been used? In what ways is its usage today different from in the past?
- A number of U.S. trading partners have raised complaints in the World Trade Organization (WTO) that the United States has violated WTO obligations in applying steel and aluminum tariffs under Sec. 232. What is the basis of their argument?
- Do you think a WTO dispute settlement panel should have the authority to decide whether a WTO member has made proper use of the national security exception? Why or why not?
- What dangers can you foresee if countries take actions under the guise of national security to achieve commercial protection?
- Argue the case for/against use of Section 232 tariffs from these viewpoints: U.S. steel manufacturing, U.S. steel-using industry, foreign steel manufacturer, foreign government in a country facing tariffs on its exports to the United States.
CAN WE MEASURE WHETHER "RESHORING" IS REAL?

- How would you define re-shoring?
- What might motivate a company to consider relocating some or all of its production?
- What role do tariffs and investment policies play in the decisions of importers?
- Should governments orient their policies to bring manufacturing back home? Why or why not? (Related reading: FDI and CFIUS)
- Companies have built supply chains to maximize efficiencies but, when crises strike, they may find supply cut off. How should a company balance “just in time” efficiencies with “just in case” risk management strategies? What role does market diversification play?
- Do you pay attention to where the products you use are made?
sample discussion

Sanctions

Keeping up with U.S. Sanctions

- How might sanctions affect MNCs with affiliates around the world?
- How might sanctions affect 3rd parties doing business with entities in country applying the sanctions?
- What are “blocking” statutes developed by foreign governments to counter the extraterritorial effects of U.S. sanctions?
- How does this complicate decision-making by private entities?
- What is the role of the U.S. dollar in providing “teeth” to U.S. sanctions?
What aspects of the WTO does the article identify as in need of reform?

What do critics say is flawed with the current system in which WTO members self-declare their status as a developed or developing country?

What arguments would defenders use to support this approach?

What is a “single undertaking” and what are the benefits and drawbacks of incremental approaches to trade?

There are calls for the WTO to take up issues relevant to today’s economy. What are some of those issues?

Foreign policy scholar Robert Kagan contends there is nothing inevitable about the prevalence of the global free trade system. In recent years, have you seen world leaders championing the benefits of free trade?
IS IT JUST A PHASE? REDESIGNING TRADE DEALS IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

- The author says: “This administration has departed from the standard free trade agreement template.” What is that template?
- What might be a rationale for a phased and partial approach to reaching trade deals?
- The article notes that it is not just the U.S. Trade Representative seeking desired U.S. policy outcomes with China. Which other agencies are involved and what are their roles?
- Beyond the China “Phase One” deal, what other partial trade deals has the Trump administration pursued?
- What does the WTO say about the scope of free trade agreements negotiated outside the organization?
There's so much more to discover on TradeVistas.org.

Supplement your curriculum and start the trade dialogue in your classroom today.