

## Structured Academic Controversy Notes

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*Instructions:* You will have an opportunity to read information about the Trump administration's tariffs on China and evaluate arguments and evidence that either supports or opposes the use of tariffs. You and your partner will be assigned one side of the argument to present to your classmates. After presenting your assigned perspective, you will be asked to share your personal views on the topic.

**Your side:** (*circle the one assigned*)     **A trade war with China is beneficial**

**A trade war with China is not beneficial**

### I. Partners Prepare (20 minutes)

a. Review together the background reading and read the handout with arguments supporting the side of the argument that you have been assigned. Record key points below.

b. Craft your position with your partner. Talk through how to present the arguments and evidence most persuasively, how to organize it, what order, useful phrasing, etc. Your prepared presentation should be about 4 minutes long.

**The best arguments to support your side:**

## II. Position Presentations (15 minutes total)

In your small group, each side should present its position using supporting information and evidence from the texts while the other side takes notes in the space below. Try not to engage in discussion or questions yet; use your active listening skills! (4 min. for each side)

While listening carefully to the opposing view, write notes about important points/evidence raised:

b. Conference with your partner. Star or underline the most compelling arguments you heard from the other side. (3 min.)

c. Each side shares what it considered to be the most compelling arguments and evidence from the other side. (2 min. for each side)

## III. Open Discussion (8-10 minutes)

Have an open discussion with your classmates about U.S.-China trade relations. You do not need to continue presenting your assigned side of the argument—feel free to share your personal opinions on the topic and ask your classmates questions. As you discuss ideas, please keep in mind these expectations:

- Be respectful of one another.
- Listen carefully to everyone's ideas, even if you don't agree with them.
- Try to understand different sides of the controversy.
- Although you may disagree with another person's positions or ideas, don't be critical of the person.
- Don't take criticism of your ideas as a personal attack.
- Be open to changing your mind when the evidence supports this.

## IV: My informed viewpoint on this issue:

**Writing Prompt**—Explain your views on the following question. (You may type your response or write on a separate sheet of paper.)

*Will a trade war with China help the Trump administration reach its policy objectives?*