
Price Gouging Revisited

Segment Length: 4:23 minutes; 3:13 minutes

Videos:

“How coronavirus price-gouging is hurting consumers”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iP1uYl6XP8U>

“Price Gouging”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OspCSh26So>

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. Amazon says that price gougers are “attempting to artificially raise prices” on certain products. How would John Stossel respond?
2. New York City is issuing \$500 fines to stores who engage in price gouging. What impact will this have? Will it be positive or negative?
3. John Stossel explains that disasters can lead to supply shortages if sellers don’t raise prices, because some buyers will purchase more than they need. How does this relate to the shortages mentioned in the CBS This Morning video?
4. Should price gougers be fined, or even jailed? Why/Why not?
5. Have you experienced supply shortages?
6. Is there a middle-ground between allowing free reign to price gougers and banning the practice entirely?