

Common arguments AGAINST free trade

1. Free trade ships domestic jobs overseas.
2. When Americans purchase foreign goods, dollars leave the country.
3. We do not need to be dependent on other nations for truly important things; it is a national security risk.
4. Other nations do not treat their workers fairly; they are either paid much lower wages or are subjected to unhealthy working conditions.
5. If companies are allowed to manufacture products in any country they want, they may choose to make their goods in countries with very lax environmental standards.
6. Other nations are “dumping” (selling their products in our country below cost in order to hurt domestic producers) or do not open up their markets fully to us.

Common arguments FOR free trade

1. Although the production of some goods does move overseas, free trade allows Americans to specialize in our comparative advantage and export more to other countries.
2. Free trade increases the amount and variety of goods and services available to domestic consumers.
3. By importing goods from countries where they can be made at lower costs, consumers pay lower prices and the standard of living of people in the United States increases.
4. The increased international competition that comes with free trade forces domestic companies to innovate and increase their efficiency in order to retain their domestic consumers.