

KICK IT UP A NOTCH!

ENGAGING LESSONS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOMS

SIMILATIONS	DEBATES	STORY TELLING	MUSIC & MOVEMENT	GAMES

CAPITALISM VERSUS COMMUNISM

The Great Debate!

Directions: Read the following information about capitalism and communism. Then, on the back side of this paper, create a mock argument (thesis and three pieces evidence) that claims that a capitalist economy will bring the most success to a country. Then create a mock argument that claims a communist economy will bring the most success to a country.

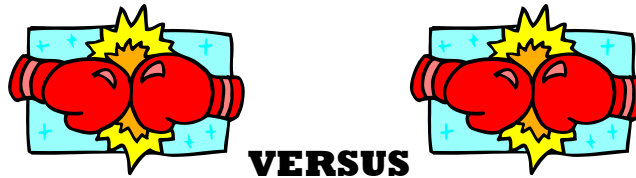
CAPITALISM (also known as a free-market economy)

In capitalism, most basic and non-basic businesses are privately owned. Workers produce the goods (products) or services. When a company sells its products, it earns profits (money). The owners decide how much to pay workers and how to use profits.

Consumers (people who buy and use the goods and services) are important in capitalism. Companies make products, but consumers might refuse to buy them. Successful companies supply goods or services that consumers need, want, and can afford.

Capitalism focuses on individual economic choices. People are free to decide how they will earn and spend their income. Companies may choose which goods and services to produce and how much to charge for them. Companies also compete with one another to sell their products.

***Capitalist countries include the United States, Japan, and South Africa.*



COMMUNISM

In communism, the central government owns all property, such as farms and factories, for the benefit of its citizens. It controls all aspects of citizens' lives, including prices of goods and services, how much is produced, and how much workers are paid.

The long-range goal of communism is a society that provides equality and economic security for all people. In order to do this, the government controls all the resources of production. It controls trade and operates the major communication and transportation systems. Individuals and businesses make no major economic decisions. That is all up to the government planners.

In a communist economy, consumers may spend their money as they wish most of the time. Yet they can only choose among the goods and services that the government makes available. Workers cannot switch jobs freely. However, they are encouraged to put a lot of effort into education and their skills.

***Communist countries include Cuba, China, and North Korea. The Soviet Union was also communist.*

MOCK ARGUMENT FORMAT ON BACK



ARGUMENT #1

- ❖ *Thesis: A **capitalist** economy will bring the most success to a country.* A successful country should (have/be/make)....

- ❖ *First piece of supporting evidence:*

- ❖ *Second piece of supporting evidence:*

- ❖ *Third piece of supporting evidence:*

- ❖ *Conclusion: In conclusion, a **capitalist** economy will bring the most success to a country....*

ARGUMENT #2

- ❖ *Thesis: A **communist** economy will bring the most success to a country.* A successful country should (have/be/make)....

- ❖ *First piece of supporting evidence:*

- ❖ *Second piece of supporting evidence:*

- ❖ *Third piece of supporting evidence:*

- ❖ *Conclusion: In conclusion, a **communist** economy will bring the most success to a country...*
