



21ST CENTURY DEBATE

A DEEPER LEARNING APPROACH TO DEBATE EDUCATION

TOPIC: "Right to Work" Laws are desirable (or undesirable).



Pros and cons of right to work laws and how they might affect you (KTTN News, July 25, 2018)

BACKGROUND:

The term “right to work” relates to or promotes the right of a worker to be able to obtain employment without being required to join a labor union to do so. When right to work laws are in place, workers cannot be compelled to pay for any cost of union representation, even if the union is active in the workplace and represents many of the other employees. It is a government regulation of contractual agreements between labor unions and employers to prevent the exclusion of non-union workers... The advantage of having right to work provisions in place is that it allows skilled workers to find beneficial employment while preserving their paycheck for their own needs. Some unions may require dues of up to 3.5%, which can take a healthy cut out of a worker’s take-home pay. The disadvantage of having right to work provisions in place is that it enhances the at-will nature of most employment contracts. In an at-will environment, any justifiable reason for termination can cause a worker to lose their job. That reason does not need to be performance related for the termination to be lawful. Termination without disciplinary action may allow unemployment benefits to be obtained, it lessens the protections of workers for their daily employment.

--[Pros and Cons of Right-To-Work \(KTTN News, July 25, 2018\)](#)

IMPORTANT: This research packet is designed to get us started in the preparation to debate about the desirability of Labor Unions and the possibility that Right to Work laws will destroy collective bargaining in the United States. We should start with attempting to understand the topic, then gather some evidence from these and other sources, from these (and other) sources we will create arguments and begin writing the debate cases for both sides of the topic.



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REQUIRED RESEARCH (VIDEOS):

Right to Work Laws: Lions, Tigers and Unions. Oh My!

Hip Hughes, February 25, 2015 [9 min]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTIS_BbI8GY

Note: His information sounds strong, as he uses lots of statistics. I would research his arguments and try to find a more reliable-sounding source for your evidence.

Voters face 'Right to Work' addition to Tennessee constitution,

News Channel 5, August 9, 2022 [2 min]

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

"Right to work" amendment explained,

ABC News, November 23, 2021 [2 min]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1cjpgNsj_fc

Why Right-to-Work Laws are Bad for Workers' Rights,

Operating Engineers Local 3, February 16, 2021 [5 min]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUM20_9FCIY

[OPTIONAL] *Michigan 'Right-to-Work' Laws Spark Debate on Labor Unions,*

PBS Newshour, December 11, 2012 [12 min]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwP6bpmb0Yg>

Note: Please consider watching this reputable news program, which explains the subject well.

REQUIRED RESEARCH (ARTICLES):

America's unions are gentrifying,

The Economist, December 14, 2022 [[PDF](#)]

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2022/12/14/americas-unions-are-gentrifying>

Right-To-Work Laws Are Good For Workers,

Forbes Magazine, October 23, 2019 [[PDF](#)]

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2019/10/23/right-to-work-laws-are-good-for-workers/>

Pros and Cons of Right-To-Work and how they might affect you,

KTTN News, July 25, 2018 [[PDF](#)]

<https://www.kttm.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-the-right-to-work-and-how-they-might-affect-you/>

[Optional = Skim] *Paradox Of Right to Work Laws and International Human Rights Law,*

Amadea Datel, Columbia University, Law Review, August 17, 2021 [[PDF](#)]

<https://www.culawreview.org/journal/the-paradox-of-right-to-work-laws-and-international-human-rights-law>



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OPTIONAL RESEARCH (ARTICLES & VIDEOS):

[VIDEO] Right-to-Work Laws,

GregU, an e-Learning Provider, October 11, 2018 [3 min]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1I_d06Bwj0

The Future Looks Bright for the Right-to-Work Movement,

Raymond J. LaJeunesse, Jr., *Regulatory Review (Opinion)*, April 5, 2019

<https://www.theregreview.org/2019/04/05/lajeunesse-right-to-work-movement/>

The Long-Run Effects of Right to Work Laws,

Harvard University, November 16, 2021

<https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/matthew-lilley/files/long-run-effects-right-to-work.pdf>

Note: The abstract is just one page long. fyi

The Future of Worker Power: Labor Organizing and Labor Law at a Crossroads,

Yale University, October 18, 2022

<https://law.yale.edu/yls-today/yale-law-school-events/future-worker-power-labor-organizing-and-labor-law-crossroads>

Right to Work Laws and Union Membership,

Marie Siliciano, Princeton University, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, 1929-2022, 2017

<http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/dsp01zs25xc091>

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