

### Handout 11f: Four Views of NAFTA

**Article #1: “NAFTA at Ten. NAFTA: A decade of strengthening a dynamic relationship”.**

<http://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/nafta-alena/nafta10.aspx?lang=en>. from Canadian government website. Written by Pierre S. Pettigrew, Minister for International Trade, Canada; Robert B. Zoellick, United States Trade Representative, United States of America and Fernando Canales, Secretary of the Economy, Mexico

1. Who is the author of the article?
2. What might be the author's bias? Is the author reliable for the point he/she is making?
3. Briefly summarize the main points of the article.
4. What is the author's view of NAFTA? Positive or Negative?
5. Why might the author feel this way?
6. What types of facts are used to support the author's view?
7. According to this article, is NAFTA good for workers?
8. According to this article, does NAFTA meet the criteria for social justice? Explain.
9. What is your view of the article?

**Article #2: “New report shows NAFTA has harmed workers in all three countries”**

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/newsroom/news-releases/new-report-shows-nafta-has-harmed-workers-all-three-countries>. from The Economic Policy Institute, April 11, 2001. By Robert Scott, economist with the Economic Policy Institute; Carlos Salas, economist at the Colegio de Mexico and Bruce Campbell, director of the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives. The Economic Policy Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan economic think tank founded in 1986. The Institute can be found on the web at <http://www.epinet.org>. See more at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/newsroom/news-releases/new-report-shows-nafta-has-harmed-workers-all-three-countries#sthash.dGxnVurR.dpuf>

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8. According to this article, is NAFTA good for social justice? Explain.
9. What is your view of the article?

**Article #3: “NAFTA Made Outsourcing Easy” From AFL-CIO,**

<http://www.aflcio.org/Issues/Trade/NAFTA/NAFTA-Made-Outsourcing-Easy>.

“We are the umbrella federation for U.S. unions, with 57 unions representing more than 12 million working men and women. We work to ensure that all people who work receive the rewards of their work—decent paychecks and benefits, safe jobs, respect and fair treatment. We work to make the voices of working people heard in the White House, on Capitol Hill, in state capitals across the country and in corporate boardrooms. We provide an independent voice for working families and ways for working people to be actively engaged in politics and legislation. We also hold corporations accountable for their treatment of employees and ensure the voice of working people is heard in the financial system. We also work with federations of unions in other countries toward global social and economic fairness.”

<http://www.aflcio.org/About>

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9. What is your view of the article?

**Article #4: "NAFTA at 15: The Human Face", from Witness for Peace.**

[www.witnessforpeace.org/article.php?id=842](http://www.witnessforpeace.org/article.php?id=842) "Witness for Peace (WFP) is a politically independent, nationwide grassroots organization of people committed to nonviolence and led by faith and conscience. Witness for Peace's mission is to support peace, justice and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing U.S. policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean."

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8. According to this article, is NAFTA good for social justice? Explain.
9. What is your view of the article?

**DISCUSSION:**

**After reading all the articles, consider the question again: If you were the factory owner making a decision about relocation: would you do it? Why/why not?**

**Finally: is Free Trade good for social justice? Why/Why not?**