

## Student Worksheet 3.4

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### Activity 3.4 Free Trade's Effects on Sustainable Agriculture: A Debate

Before class, read the chapter provided by your instructor (Ritchie 1993) in which the author denounces the international loosening of “barriers” to commerce in food products. These so-called barriers, however, include many food safety regulations, price regulations, and other measures designed to protect the sustainability of small farms and the livelihood of those workers who cultivate them.

Also read the chapter by Globerman (1993) provided by your instructor. Although agriculture is not his main focus, Globerman presents a different perspective, arguing that free trade may be good for the environment.

Your job is to defend one of the above perspectives in an in-class debate on the liberalization of international agricultural trade. You will need to do some additional research before the debate to prepare your argument.

During the debate, be sure to take notes on the arguments made by both sides of the issue. Your instructor may ask you to write a formal essay based on the debate, your own research, and what you learned from the other perspective.