

Name _____

Break The Trusts Answer Key

Suggested responses should reflect historical reasoning:

Arguments For Regulation:

- Prevent monopolies from crushing small businesses
- Protect consumers from high prices and poor-quality goods
- Encourage fair competition and innovation
- Safeguard workers from unfair conditions

Arguments Against Regulation:

- Businesses should grow without government interference
- Large companies create more jobs and stronger national economy
- Efficiency of big business lowers costs for consumers
- Fear that regulation may slow down progress and innovation

Short-Answer Concepts:

- Problem examples: unfair pricing, lack of competition, worker exploitation
- Historical examples:
 - Sherman Antitrust Act (1890) aimed to break up monopolies
 - Standard Oil case (1911) resulted in company breakup
 - Northern Securities case limited railroad consolidation

Students should provide evidence-based explanations.

Teacher's Guide

- Allow students to choose a side and form debate teams
- Start discussion with a political cartoon about monopolies or "octopus trusts"
- Conduct a brief "stand on your side" activity to show class opinions visually

Extension Ideas:

- Students write a short speech using the arguments they developed
- Compare Theodore Roosevelt's trust-busting with later policies
- Connect to modern antitrust topics (technology companies, media mergers)