

Bust The Trusts Answer Key

- Case 1 - Yes; they created a near-monopoly and raised prices due to lack of competition.
- Case 2 - Yes; secret railroad deals unfairly harmed competitors.
- Case 3 - No; open competition and legal practices supported consumers.
- Case 4 - Yes; price-fixing limited competition and kept prices high.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Evaluating business practices during the Progressive Era; applying concepts of antitrust and fair competition.
- **Support & Differentiation:**
 - Provide sentence stems such as: "This company limited competition because..."
 - Offer a short vocabulary box with terms like monopoly, price-fixing, competition, consumer.
- **Classroom Engagement:**
 - Turn the room into an "Investigation Center" where students discuss evidence before ruling.
 - Allow teams to debate rulings and defend their decisions with historical facts.
- **Extensions & Higher-Level Thinking:**
 - Connect to Theodore Roosevelt's "trust-busting" policies and court cases like Northern Securities.
 - Have students research a real Progressive Era company and write an additional case summary.