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The News Record, April 11, 2005

Free trade versus Fair Trade: What's the difference?

Background

"Nearly 400 activists from more than 20 states, and as far away as India, convened at the University of Cincinnati this weekend for "Global Three: Reclaiming Community and Environment," a conference dedicated to globalization and its effects. ...All of these tools were aimed at educating the attendees about economic globalization, which is the increasingly international nature of business, investment, goods and money worldwide."

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Scenario

A friend asks you to join her to go downtown for a demonstration opposing free trade. So you ask her "what's the problem, free trade sounds like a good thing for everyone?" And she replies, "Hey it's about time, you get informed and figure out the difference between free versus fair. And there are many Cincinnati Companies that exploit others based on free trade." This demonstration is outside the headquarters of Procter and Gamble, and your mom is a VP with this company.

But you recall buying a cup of coffee at Starbucks this morning that was called fair trade. Or what is it free trade coffee? After investigating this topic, are you likely to participate in the demonstration?

Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will research free trade versus fair trade, understanding the difference.
- 2) Students will identify Fortune 500 Companies in Cincinnati, investigating their social policies and positions on free trade versus fair trade.
- 3) Students will identify where they personally stand on a controversial topic.

