

## Trans-Pacific Partnership: What's the Deal?



An SB1070 Project

### Case Study – Background & Introduction

On November 5, 2015, President Barack Obama offered an introduction to the text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) which was titled, “Here’s the Deal”. In it, he briefly outlined how this agreement would protect American jobs, as well as worker’s rights and the environment around the world - especially in rapidly growing economies such as Asia.



ThatOneWikiGuy (via Wikimedia Commons)

The TPP began with four smaller nations: Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore. It has grown to an agreement among 12 Pacific Rim nations which, according to the Office of the United State’s Trade Representative’s [info graphic](#), would, “write the rules for global trade-- rules that will help increase Made-in-America exports, grow the American economy, support well-paying American jobs, and strengthen the American middle class.” After more than six years of negotiations, the 12 member nations met in New Zealand on February 6, 2016 and all signed the agreement. It will enter into force only if all of the member nations ratify it by February 4, 2018. There are 800 million people living in the TPP countries which already account for 40% of global trade. For this reason, the TPP is considered the most ambitious trade agreement to date.



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The TPP is a major topic of conversation in the debates leading to the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Candidates are grilled on whether they would support or oppose it. The agreement has its ardent supporters who cite the positive, American-values-based influence it will bring to developing nations along with benefits to working people in the United States. It also has a vocal opposition which insists it will be the end of all things good in America with anti-TPP memes popping up daily on social media.

Complicating the scenario are existing trade agreements which may or may not limit trade between the U.S. and the other 11 member nations. The North American Free Trade Agreement Additionally, there are key players in the region who are not part of the deal.

### Case Study Questions

Use the information above and execute a Google Images search for “Trans-Pacific Partnership member countries” to answer the following questions:

1. What major Pacific Rim countries are not involved in the TPP?
2. Make a prediction as to why those countries in #1 are not involved.

Name(s):

Period:

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## “Here’s the Deal: The text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership”

### Introduction



### Objectives/Standards

- Identify and analyze the arguments in favor of the TPP made by President Obama and the evidence he uses to support them.
- Summarize his claims using the Rhetorical Précis Template.

### Directions

Read the text of President Obama’s introduction. Underline the claimed benefits of the TPP in his statement. Circle the evidence he uses to support those claims. Use the Rhetorical Précis template to create a summary of his arguments. For more readings, go to the following URL:

<https://medium.com/the-trans-pacific-partnership/here-s-the-deal-the-text-of-the-trans-pacific-partnership-103adc324500#.h1klid6bo>

### Here’s the Deal: The Text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

#### Introduction

Barack Obama

Nov 5, 2015

When we have a level playing field, Americans out-compete anyone in the world. That’s a fundamental truth about our country.

But right now, the rules of global trade put our workers, our businesses, and our values at a disadvantage.

If you’re an autoworker in Michigan, the cars you build face taxes as high as 70 percent in Vietnam. If you’re a worker in Oregon, you’re forced to compete against workers in other countries that set lower standards and pay lower wages just to cut their costs. If you’re a small business owner in Ohio, you might face customs rules that are confusing, costly, and an unnecessary barrier to selling abroad.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership will change that.

It’s the highest standard trade agreement in history. It eliminates 18,000 taxes that various countries put on American goods. That will boost Made-in-America exports abroad while supporting higher-paying jobs right here at home. And that’s going to help our economy grow.

I know that past trade agreements haven't always lived up to the hype. That's what makes this trade agreement so different, and so important.

The TPP includes the strongest labor standards in history, from requiring a minimum wage and worker safety regulations to prohibiting child labor and forced labor. It also includes the strongest environmental commitments in history, requiring countries in one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth to crack down on illegal wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, and illegal fishing. These standards are at the core of the agreement and are fully enforceable — which means we can bring trade sanctions against countries that don't step up their game.

And for the first time ever, we'll have a multilateral trade agreement that reflects the reality of the digital economy by promoting a free and open Internet and by preventing unfair laws that restrict the free flow of data and information.

In other words, the TPP means that America will write the rules of the road in the 21st century. When it comes to Asia, one of the world's fastest-growing regions, the rulebook is up for grabs. And if we don't pass this agreement — if America doesn't write those rules — then countries like China will. And that would only threaten American jobs and workers and undermine American leadership around the world.

That's why [I am posting the text of this agreement here for you to read and explore](#). There's a lot in here, so we've put together summaries of each chapter to help you navigate what's in the agreement and what these new standards will mean for you.

I know that if you take a look at what's actually in the TPP, you will see that this is, in fact, a new type of trade deal that puts American workers first.

## Rhetorical Précis Template

**Do not write directly on this form. Rewrite précis paragraph on your own paper.**

\_\_\_\_\_ , in the \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 (Author) (A) (Title – quotes or underlined)

\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_  
 (B)

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ supports his/her \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Author’s last name) (B) (C)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Author’s last name) (D) (what?)

in order to/so that \_\_\_\_\_.

The author writes in a \_\_\_\_\_ tone for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (E)

### Word Bank

A	B	C	D	E
article book review essay column editorial song novel statement	argues, argument, asserts, assertion, suggests, suggestion, claims, claim questions, question explains, explanation	comparing contrasting telling explaining illustrating demonstrating defining describing listing	show point out suggest inform persuade convince describe	Formal / informal sarcastic humorous contemptuous outraged bitter objective factual sincere judgmental or critical

Name(s):

Period:

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## The Trans-Pacific Partnership

Leveling the playing field for American workers & American businesses.



An SB1070 Project

### Objectives/Standards

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- Identify the benefits of the TPP for American workers & businesses
- Write a summary of the benefits

### Directions

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Visit the Office of the United States Trade Representative's TPP info graphic: <https://ustr.gov/top/>

Explore the page: click on the links related to the questions in the table below. Write a summary using the information in the organizer.

### Questions & Summary Organizer

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What is the TPP?	
Which Pacific Rim nations are involved?	
What are the overall benefits to the U.S.?	
Click on "EXPLORE THE OVER 18,000 TAX CUTS IN TPP". Give an example of a tax cut which is beneficial to U.S. workers.	
Click "READ THE FULL REPORT HERE" and find your home state. What benefits will your state receive under TPP?	

<p>Under “Read the Deal” click on #19 Labour. Read the “Overview” and give three examples of how the agreement protects workers.</p>	
<p>Are there any protections put in place for countries not involved in the TPP? Give an example.</p>	
<p>Under “Read the Deal” click on #20 Environment. Read the “Overview” and give three examples of how the agreement protects the environment in the member countries.</p>	
<p>Paraphrase the following statement and identify the region which “encompasses major consumer transit and export markets for threatened and endangered wildlife”?</p>	
<p>Using Chapter 19 and 20 of the TPP, identify how the TPP benefits member nations other than the U.S. (Why are they willing to sign this agreement?)</p>	

Name(s):

Period:

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## Article: “Influential Democrat on trade issues steps up opposition to TPP”



### Objectives/Standards

- Identify and analyze the arguments in opposition to the TPP made by Michigan Representative Sander Levin.
- Summarize Levin’s claims using the Rhetorical Précis Template above.

### Directions

Read the text of the following *Christian Science Monitor* article. Underline the claims made by Levin. Circle the evidence used in the article to support Levin’s claims. Complete a Rhetorical Précis to summarize his argument.

#### **Influential Democrat on trade issues steps up opposition to TPP**

The stance by Michigan Rep. Sander Levin will make it harder for the White House to get the Trans-Pacific Partnership approved by Congress before President Obama leaves office.

By David Cook  
February 18, 2016

WASHINGTON — Michigan Rep. Sander Levin, one of the most influential Democrats on trade issues, is stepping up his opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership – a trade agreement involving 40 percent of the world’s commerce.

“I have now concluded that the TPP as negotiated is short of an acceptable outcome, and I do not support it,” Representative Levin said Thursday at a Monitor-hosted breakfast for reporters. Levin is the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee and a former chairman of the influential panel.

Levin’s opposition will make it harder for the White House to get the TPP deal approved by Congress before President Obama leaves office. The pact covers 12 governments, including Japan and Vietnam.

The trade deal faces an uncertain fate under various potential future presidents. Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump, and Ted Cruz all have stated their opposition to it. Marco Rubio's campaign says he is "reviewing" his position on the trade pact after previously supporting it.

The agreement was signed Feb. 4 in New Zealand by US Trade Representative Michael Froman. But timing of the White House push for congressional approval remains uncertain. At a White House press briefing earlier this month, press secretary Josh Earnest said, "It's a complicated process. We are not yet at a place where the president has forwarded the agreement to Congress for their ratification."

In explaining his opposition, Levin cited several issues including how the lengthy document deals with worker rights, currency manipulation, and rules that determine how much content in a product has to come from a TPP country for it to be subject to lower tariffs.

"Vietnam, Malaysia, and Mexico engage in abhorrent abuses of fundamental rights – competing internationally in a race to the bottom that harms workers everywhere," Levin said. He added that the agreement is "setting an economic framework for generations. We cannot afford to lock in weak standards, uncompetitive practices, and a system that does not broadly spread the benefits of trade."

Levin was never an enthusiastic supporter of TPP. He opposed a measure that Congress enacted last year giving the Obama administration the ability to submit trade pacts for a simple up or down vote without the possibility of filibuster or amendment.

"We're disappointed but not surprised given Congressman Levin's votes against trade promotion authority and the trade enforcement bill," said Matthew McAlvanah, assistant US trade representative for public affairs, in an e-mailed statement. "In TPP, we've made historic progress on issues important to House Democrats and look forward to continuing to work on a bipartisan basis to move legislation forward."

At the breakfast, the longtime Michigan congressman was asked how his opposition to the TPP deal differs from that of Mr. Trump, one of the Republican presidential contenders. In an interview with Breitbart News, Trump said, "The deal is insanity," adding that it "should not be supported and it should not be allowed to happen."

"He never says what do you do," Levin said. "You don't make trade benefit the working families and the economic sector of the United States simply by code words.... I think for Trump it is rhetoric, when what we need with trade is reality."

**Editor's note:** *This story was updated to include a response from the Office of the US Trade Representative.*

Name(s):

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## Writing Prompt



The Trans-Pacific Partnership has been much debated in Social Media. Anti-TPP memes arrive by the hour, suggesting threats to American jobs and questionable food production practices such as chickens being shipped to China for slaughter and processing. Yet those negotiating the deal have high hopes it will bring much needed improvements to the global economy and environmental protections.

In his introduction to the TPP, President Obama states,

“The TPP includes the strongest labor standards in history, from requiring a minimum wage and worker safety regulations to prohibiting child labor and forced labor. It also includes the strongest environmental commitments in history, requiring countries in one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth to crack down on illegal wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, and illegal fishing. These standards are at the core of the agreement and are fully enforceable”

Explain the argument that Obama makes and discuss the ways in which you agree or disagree with his analysis and conclusion. Support your position by providing reasons and examples from your own experience, observations, or reading.

## College & Career Connections

### Career Spotlight

#### Logistics Specialist

Coordinate logistics operations for your organization, prepare initial documentation, review contract plans, process reports, collect and analyze information to develop performance metrics.

Median Annual Salary: \$48,000  
EDUCATION: Associates Degree in Logistics and Transportation or related field.

### College Connections

#### International Logistics and Transportation A.S. Degree

The program provides students with a foundation of knowledge to enter the field of logistics and transportation and addresses the changing industry needs as a result of globalization. The program focuses on logistics, transportation and trade issues along the San Diego-Tijuana border region

Schools offering this program of study  
[Southwestern College](#)

#### International Business and Trade A.A. Degree

Principles of managing a business in an international context, and of exporting or importing of industrial or consumer goods in world markets. Includes trade regulations and controls, foreign trade operations, locating markets, negotiation practices, monetary issues, and international law and public relations.

Schools offering this program of study  
[Palomar College](#)

## References

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-32498715>

<http://www.swc-logistics-transportation.org/certificatesdegree/>