

Election 2016 • Debate Watch Party

# TPP/TRADE ISSUES BINGO



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOST

First of all, thanks for hosting a TPP debate-watching party and helping us spread the word about the dangers of the TPP. For your guests, the game is intended to be fun. For you, it is a way to help spur discussion on the TPP and U.S. trade policy and to get people to join the fight against the TPP.

What you'll need: enough handouts for each guest, enough pens/pencils for each guest, space to move around for the optional games, a TV/computer on which to watch the debate, and enough food and drinks to keep your guests happy. (Paper-free alternative: You can email all guests the handouts and bingo cards ahead of time and make sure they come ready with their smartphones, tablets or laptops.)

Before the debate and bingo game start, please pass out the two fact sheets (Backgrounder: TPP Is a Bad Deal and AFL-CIO's 10 Critical Problems with the TPP), the suggested tweets, the bingo card and the bingo term sheet.

If you feel comfortable, lead a brief discussion about the handouts or have a TPP "Q and A" session. A brief discussion of the topic will help guests who may have never heard of the deal to gain some basic knowledge and may help spur a conversation about the TPP "myths" being peddled by TPP advocates.

Next, have each guest create a custom bingo card by choosing from the terms listed on the bingo term sheet. (Time-saving alternative: You can create custom bingo cards ahead of time—just remember to make each one unique, or your entire party will call "Bingo" at the same time!) There is no need to stop the game after the first "four in a row" bingo. If there is time left, you can allow second- and third-place winners on "four in a row" or have your guests keep going for a complete blackout. (Note: Don't worry about whether the TPP is a major focus of the debate or not. The bingo term sheet contains enough general policy terms [e.g., jobs] that at least one guest should be able to get a bingo by the end of the night.)

## **Suggested pre- or post-debate activities:**

- One-Minute TPP Pitch: Ask everyone (or those who are willing to volunteer) to give a one-minute "elevator speech" explaining to another guest why she or he should get involved in the TPP fight. Time the speeches. You be the judge or have all your guests vote on the best speech.
- TPP Is Everywhere Game: Divide guests into two teams. Have one team call out an issue (e.g., health care, inequality). The other team then has two minutes (or less) to explain how the TPP affects this issue. You can award points for speed, style and thoroughness of answer, or you can play until any team is stumped twice.
- To stimulate participation, make sure guests know they can consult the handouts and the internet during the games. They do not have to be policy wonks to play.

- Have a “Twitter race” to see who can tweet the most TPP tweets in two minutes (you can use the suggested tweets included in this packet or have guests create their own).
- Ask guests to text TPP to 235246 to join the AFL-CIO’s trade activist list.

### **Suggested pre- or post-debate discussion questions:**

- Who won the debate and why?
- Did the candidates do a good job of discussing all the implications of the TPP and other corporate-style trade deals? Why or why not?
- If the TPP was not mentioned by name in the debate, were most players able to mark squares on their bingo cards anyway? Why? What does this tell us about how broad the TPP is?
- Which candidate seemed more likely to focus on raising wages and strengthening unions? Why?
- Which candidate seemed more likely to protect the environment and address climate change? Why?
- Why is it important to inform friends and family about the TPP?
- Will each guest commit to telling one friend about the TPP? Why or why not?
- Will each guest commit to calling his or her member of Congress and demanding that he or she announce opposition to the TPP now? You can use 1-855-856-7545 to reach Congress.
- If we could design a new trade policy, with real public input, what would it look like?

Guests who want to know more about the TPP can find great information at the following resources (you can even work together as a group to find more answers about the TPP on the web as part of the games/discussion):

- <http://www.aflcio.org/Issues/Trade/Trans-Pacific-Partnership-Free-Trade-Agreement-TPP>
- <http://www.sierraclub.org/trade/trans-pacific-partnership>
- <http://www.citizen.org/TPP>
- <http://coalitionforbettertrade.org/>
- <http://www.flushthetpp.org/>

Adjust the bingo rules and discussion/game suggestions to suit your personality and your friends. You can spice up the festivities by awarding prizes, including a drinking component, or adding additional twists. Have fun!

# PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE BINGO: TPP EDITION

Thanks for joining in! In this game, you will be listening carefully to the debate. Write a trade-related phrase you expect the candidates to say in each square. Call “Bingo!” if you’re the first person to get four in a row or a blackout!


Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHOOSE ANY 16 OF THE FOLLOWING CHOICES TO FILL IN YOUR BINGO CARD.

### Terms Related to the TPP and Trade Policies

1. TPP/Trans-Pacific Partnership
2. Trade deficit
3. Strong trade enforcement
4. Income inequality
5. Wages aren't growing/are stagnating
6. Affordable medicines
7. Jobs
8. TTIP/Trans-Trade & Investment Partnership
9. Corporate power
10. Vietnam minimum wage ~65 cents/hour
11. Human trafficking
12. Global steel glut/overcapacity
13. Currency misalignment/manipulation
14. Rules of origin
15. Infrastructure investment
16. Export-Import Bank
17. Strong unions build a strong middle class
18. TISA/Trade in Services Agreement
19. ISDS/corporate courts/investor rights
20. Industrial policy/manufacturing policy
21. Immigration reform
22. Buy American
23. COOL/Country of Origin Labeling
24. WTO/World Trade Organization
25. Brexit
26. Lame-duck vote
27. Climate change
28. Fracking
29. Competing with China
30. Promoting American values
31. Promoting shared prosperity
32. NAFTA/North American Free Trade Agreement
33. Pivot to Asia
34. Fix labor problems in Mexico
35. Fix labor problems in Vietnam
36. Food safety
37. Labor rights
38. Human rights

### And/Or Look/Listen for the Following:

39. The moderator asks a question specifically about unaccountable tribunals for foreign investors (aka ISDS or corporate courts)
40. Donald Trump gives Hillary Clinton the side eye (Mike Pence if VP debate)
41. Hillary Clinton gives Trump the side eye (Tim Kaine if VP debate)
42. The moderator looks exasperated
43. Someone says "The TPP is not really about trade."
44. A "NO TPP" sign or T-shirt in the audience

**Winners will be determined by the sole discretion of the party host. All decisions of the host are final!**

# BACKGROUND: TPP IS A BAD DEAL

The biggest global companies in the world (including members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable) are working to advance a deal between the U.S. and 11 Pacific Rim countries (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Japan, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam) that will set economic rules for 40% of the world's economy.

Supporters call the TPP a “21st-century trade deal” and tout its “high standards.” They say it promotes “American values” and will ensure that the U.S., not China, will write the rules of trade for Asia and the Pacific. But those talking points hide a lot of facts about the TPP.

The TPP was negotiated in secret with hundreds of corporate advisers while the public was locked out. It grants new rights to foreign corporations to sue the U.S. government before a panel of three corporate lawyers. Modeled after past trade agreements that have already cost us millions of American jobs, it would make it even easier for corporations to ship jobs overseas. It would lower wages by pitting Americans against workers making 65 cents an hour in countries like Vietnam. The TPP will also require us to import food that does not meet U.S. safety standards, undermine policies to combat climate change and raise drug prices. This TPP agreement is not good for America's taxpayers or working families.

**The TPP isn't about trade.** Only six of the TPP's 30 chapters cover traditional trade issues like tariffs and customs rules. Most of the rest give new rights and powers to corporations and investors. For example, one chapter limits the ways we can regulate banks, another limits the ways we can regulate food safety and a third creates an unaccountable private justice system for foreign investors.

**The TPP is about corporate rights.** It was negotiated in secret for more than five years, under the influence of more than 500 “trade advisers” (85% of whom represent business interests). The rules of the TPP make it easy for foreign investors to bring claims to protect their profits before unaccountable tribunals of corporate lawyers empowered to award unlimited sums of taxpayer money to compensate for the loss of “expected future profits.” Only foreign investors can access these unaccountable tribunals—not local businesses and not average citizens.

**The TPP hurts our manufacturing sector.** The TPP will further undermine U.S. manufacturing, reducing manufacturing output by \$10.8 billion and manufacturing employment by .2%, according to a study by the independent U.S. International Trade Commission.

**The TPP threatens our jobs and wages.** By pitting America's workers against forced labor in Malaysia and workers in Vietnam making 65 cents an hour who have no independent labor unions, the TPP will cost jobs and exacerbate income inequality. Similar trade deals already cost the average worker \$1,800 a year in income. The TPP could lower wages for 90% of America's workers.

**The TPP does not help us compete against China.** Some of the rules of the TPP are so weak that they will let products (like cars) that are mostly “made in China” qualify for TPP benefits.

**The TPP undermines national security.** As retired Brigadier General John Adams has explained, by facilitating the further offshoring of America's manufacturing base, the TPP would actually undermine America's military readiness and global economic standing.

**The TPP jeopardizes food safety.** The U.S. currently rejects a significant portion of food imports from TPP countries like Vietnam and Malaysia as unsafe, but the TPP would require us to accept food imports that do not meet U.S. standards.

**The TPP threatens the affordability of medicines.** It provides new rights to brand-name pharmaceutical firms that would delay the availability of affordable generic medicines. These firms will also be able to challenge drug patent and pricing policies in unaccountable investment tribunals.

**The TPP won't promote human rights.** To advance the TPP, the U.S. government provided Malaysia with an undeserved upgrade on its human trafficking record—despite an egregious record that includes mass graves and human cages in trafficking camps. The TPP also includes Brunei, where adultery and sodomy are punishable by stoning and flogging. The TPP doesn't contain any provisions addressing basic human rights such as freedom of speech or freedom from torture.

**The TPP won't protect labor rights.** The TPP contains a near carbon copy of Bush-era labor provisions, which have failed to protect Colombian labor activists from illegal firings, death threats and assassinations. The TPP contains no provisions to improve labor monitoring and enforcement or to speed up cases when countries fail to protect vulnerable workers. This process is notoriously slow. For example, the labor case against the government of Guatemala is now in its ninth year, but Guatemala continues to respond to worker abuses with neglect and inaction.

**The TPP won't protect the environment.** The TPP's environmental obligations are weaker than the Bush-era obligations in many areas, including rules to protect whales and wetlands. The TPP could even increase trade in shark fins. Most importantly, the TPP's private tribunals for foreign investors will allow global corporations to challenge efforts to ensure that our children drink clean water and breathe clean air.

**The TPP could undermine efforts to address climate change.** Because the TPP contains no provisions requiring cooperation to reduce carbon emissions, firms will be able to freely move production out of the U.S. to avoid our carbon reduction efforts, or to bring an investment challenge in hopes of undermining our laws.

**The TPP allows countries—including China—to cheat on currency.** Although the U.S. could create as many as 5.8 million jobs by addressing currency misalignment, the TPP contains no penalties to halt this practice, which makes U.S. exports artificially more expensive.

**The TPP threatens local and state decision-making.** Global firms aren't limited to challenging national laws and regulations in investment tribunals. They can challenge state and local decisions too, including local building permits, state environmental protections, and even state court decisions.

**The TPP doesn't help the U.S. shore up allies in the Pacific.** Many of the TPP partners are unhappy about the corporate-friendly provisions in the TPP, including on medicines and investment. Trade policies should focus on raising wages and creating shared prosperity. Helping to grow a strong middle class and a sustainable economy across the Pacific Rim is a better way to shore up our alliances.

# AFL-CIO's 10 CRITICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE TPP

These critical flaws make the TPP a bad deal for America's working people.

**1. The TPP allows currency-manipulating countries to kill U.S. jobs.** The TPP text doesn't contain enforceable currency manipulation rules. Countries that intentionally devalue their currency cheat U.S. manufacturers and undermine any benefits from tariff reductions. Enforcing currency manipulation rules is probably the single most effective thing the United States could do to create jobs; in fact, doing so could add as many as 5.8 million jobs.<sup>1</sup>

**2. The TPP lets foreign corporations bypass U.S. law.** The TPP allows multinational companies to challenge U.S. laws, regulations and safeguards through a provision called investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS), a private justice system that undermines our democracy. Through ISDS, foreign investors can seek compensation from the United States for enforcing regulations and safeguards designed to protect America's working families. In fact, multinational companies are using ISDS right now to attack democratically made policies and laws in Germany, Canada, Egypt, Peru and right here in the U.S.

**3. The TPP allows climate change to go unchecked.** The TPP doesn't contain any enforceable climate change commitments or border fees to offset the cost of environment-damaging imports. This undermines our efforts to address climate change and jeopardizes the important U.S.-China bilateral agreement on climate change

and clean energy.<sup>2</sup> It does *nothing* to discourage U.S. manufacturers from moving their factories to TPP countries with weak climate regulations. This damages both U.S. jobs and our efforts to address climate change.

**4. The TPP doesn't strengthen international labor rights protections.** There are extensive, well-documented labor problems in at least four TPP countries (Mexico, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia),<sup>3</sup> but the administration has not committed to requiring all countries to be in full compliance with international labor standards before they get benefits under the agreement. Worker rights obligations have never been fully enforced under existing free trade agreements, which have provided too much discretion for worker complaints to be delayed for years or indefinitely (e.g., Honduras, Guatemala). A progressive TPP would eliminate this shortcoming, not repeat it. Given that no administration has ever self-initiated labor enforcement under a free trade agreement, any promise to "strongly enforce" the TPP should be met with skepticism.

**5. The TPP could allow public services to be permanently outsourced.** Public services such as sanitation, transit and utilities should be carved out of trade deals—but the TPP puts them at risk. The TPP does not ensure that governments can pull out of wasteful and failing public service privatization efforts without shelling out taxpayer dollars or otherwise compensating foreign firms or trading partners.<sup>4</sup>

**6. The TPP allows foreign state-owned enterprises to continue to undermine small business.** The TPP doesn't adequately protect small businesses from the predatory tactics of foreign state-owned and state-subsidized companies. Often, these enterprises benefit from government support and drive their American competitors out of business or put pressure on our companies to ship American jobs overseas. While the TPP contains some limited provisions to address state-owned enterprises, it's not clear it would level the playing field and provide the fast action small firms need to stay in business when faced with unfair competition.

**7. The TPP's weak rules of origin benefit China and other non-TPP countries.** The rules of origin in the TPP are weak and allow China and other nonparticipating countries to reap the agreement's benefits without having to follow its rules. In fact, the TPP's auto content requirement allows the majority of the auto content to be Chinese and manufactured outside the trade agreement's rules. This has the effect of promoting jobs in China while destroying U.S. auto supply-chain jobs.

**8. The TPP takes America out of "Buy American."** The TPP will require the U.S. government to treat Vietnamese, Malaysian and other TPP firms exactly the same as U.S. firms for many purchasing decisions—even when "Buy American" rules apply. This will send U.S. taxpayer dollars overseas and undermine U.S. job creation efforts. The TPP also could mean government purchasing contracts might not be able to include low carbon, "clean hands," living wage or other responsibility requirements in their bids.

**9. The TPP gives global banks even more power.** The TPP could make it even harder for countries facing an economic crisis to stabilize their economies. Not only can large international banks still sue countries in crisis using the "prudential exception," the TPP expands the rights of international banks to use ISDS to challenge bank regulations in front of private tribunals. Giving global banks more power makes another global financial meltdown more likely, not less.

**10. The TPP makes affordable medicines harder to find.** Quality, affordable and accessible health care is a human right, and trade policy should not interfere with public health care choices, nor should it threaten public health. Unfortunately, the TPP threatens access to affordable medicines by including new monopoly rights for pharmaceutical companies—delaying competition by affordable generics—and allowing companies more opportunities to interfere with government cost-saving efforts.

**We need a trade agreement that works for America's working families. Help us stop the TPP!**

- Call your representative and tell him or her to reject the TPP.
- Work with your community to pass a local resolution opposing bad trade deals that threaten jobs and democracy.
- Text TPP to 235246.

1. Robert E. Scott, "Stop Currency Manipulation and Create Millions of Jobs," Economic Policy Institute, Feb. 26, 2014.

2. "FACT SHEET: U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change and Clean Energy Cooperation," Executive Office of the President, Office of the Press Secretary.

3. "The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Four Countries That Don't Comply with U.S. Trade Law," AFL-CIO.

4. In 2011, the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) compared the costs of federal employees and contractors in a seminal study titled *Bad Business: Billions of Taxpayer Dollars Wasted on Hiring Contractors*, the first to compare service contractor billing rates with the salaries and benefits of federal employees. POGO determined that "on average, contractors charge the government almost twice as much as the annual compensation of comparable federal employees. Of the 35 types of jobs that POGO looked at in its new report, it was cheaper to hire federal workers in all but just two cases."

# SUGGESTED DEBATE NIGHT TWEETS

## **Tweet these out during the debate to raise awareness of the dangers of the TPP and corporate-dominated trade policies!**

Trade is important to the U.S. economy. Important enough to get right. That's why I oppose a #LameDuck vote on #TPP

Unions bring wages up. Corporate trade deals bring unions down. Support working families, oppose #TPP #1u

Consumers Union opposes #TPP. Find out why here: <http://consumersunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CU-CFA-letter-on-TPP-9-6-16-House-FINAL.pdf>.

Corporations behind the #TPP are trying to force it thru #LameDuck. Learn how to help stop it here: <http://www.citizen.org/tppaction>.

What did #NAFTA get us? Worse wages, a huge trade deficit. No thank you to the #TPP.

#Malaysia engages in forced labor. Why would greedy CEOs keep jobs in USA? No to #TPP, yes to #HumanRights.

Fact: Malaysian seafood products use chemicals banned in the U.S. #TPP jeopardizes #FoodSafety: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/news/what-heck-tpp>.

The #TPP is bad for the environment, says @SierraClub. Learn why here: <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/10/06/the-future-of-trans-pacific-trade/congress-should-oppose-tpp-on-environmental-grounds>

#TPP puts big pharma profits ahead of human lives like Zahara's. Hear her story: [https://youtu.be/1Y06\\_f1VG30](https://youtu.be/1Y06_f1VG30) #StopTPP

The #TPP threatens efforts to address climate change. Find out more here: <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/12/02/new-report-details-tpps-panoply-threats-climate>.

The small business case against the #TPP: <http://www.amiba.net/resources/tpp-independent-oppose/>.

Both major presidential candidates oppose #TPP & infrastructure investment will create more jobs in less time anyway. #StopTPP

America's families oppose the #TPP. Where does [Your Rep or Senator's Twitter Handle] stand? #StopTPP