



DID YOU KNOW?

The photograph below shows a Via Rail train. The government of Canada owns Via Rail, which it created in 1971 to provide passenger rail service across Canada. Private railway companies in Canada had decided to cut their passenger services, because they could not make a profit from them. Too many people were making the choice to drive or fly to their destinations. The U.S. also has a government-owned passenger rail service: Amtrak. Amtrak was created in 1971, in response to similar issues.

Write a position paper defending your ideas.

Your Role

The Canadian Minister of Finance has organized a special committee to review Canada's economic system. The review will help Canada respond to a proposal from the United States. The proposal is that Canada should adopt American economic principles, so that Canada and the U.S. can have one economic system. The U.S. says this change will better meet the needs of citizens in both countries.

The minister is asking you to write a position paper on this question:

Should Canada and the United States have a common economic system with little government involvement?

Your Presentation

You need to examine the underlying values that guide economic decision making in Canada and the U.S., and views and perspectives on the best economic system to meet the needs of citizens. Your paper should:

- Analyze the benefits and disadvantages of mixed and market economies in Canada and the U.S., including different views and perspectives.
- Describe your ideas on how much government should be involved in economic decision making and why.
- State your position on the question, supported by evidence that makes clear connections to views and perspectives.
- Communicate your ideas persuasively taking particular purposes and audiences into consideration, including the Minister of Finance.



Let's get started!

Use a chart like the one below to help you gather and organize your research.

As you read the chapter:

- Collect information, views and perspectives about the benefits and disadvantages of the economic systems of Canada and the United States.
- Determine the role of government in each economic system, and how this responds to the needs of citizens.

Research other print and online sources to help you learn more about mixed and market economies.

After, summarize your ideas and write your conclusions in your position paper.

	Evidence of views and perspectives on Canada's economic system: mixed economy	Evidence of views and perspectives on the U.S. economic system: market economy
Degree of government involvement		
Benefits:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for individuals • for groups 		
Disadvantages:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for individuals • for groups 		
Other evidence		

When you draw your conclusion, think about how economic systems connect to citizenship. Economic systems affect decisions about jobs, products and services, which in turn affect people's quality of life. Consider the values that you think should guide these decisions. Think about how values connect to building a society where everybody belongs.

My Informed Position

Based on research and evidence, Canada and the U.S. should/should not have a common economic system because...
The strongest pieces of evidence to support my position are...

