



Questions for Classroom Discussion

The Penny Debate

- **What are reasons why it might be a good idea to get rid of the penny?**
 - ⇒ Consider how the cost to produce the penny is starting to be much greater than its purchasing power
 - ⇒ Consider that other countries (such as Canada) have already gotten rid of their pennies with no problems, and even the United States has made changes to its coinage in the past
 - ⇒ Consider how the counting of pennies is a time-waster both for consumers and retail workers

- **What are reasons why it would be a good idea to keep the penny?**
 - ⇒ Consider how the price of products will have to be rounded (usually up) to the nearest nickel, creating a rise in prices across the board
 - ⇒ Consider how pennies can add up, and are often a major factor in charity drives
 - ⇒ Consider that there is currently no public support to get rid of the penny (according to major polls), even when people hear about the cost benefits

- **What would be the public reaction if it was announced that the penny was going to be removed from circulation?**
 - ⇒ Consider the sentimental value of the “Lincoln Penny,” and how people may feel to hear it will soon be gone
 - ⇒ Consider how many people might have greater issues to worry about than whether or not the penny exists
 - ⇒ Consider the major economic issues of the time, and whether or not most people feel that the “penny debate” should be among them