

## NESOE Lesson – Teacher Version

Title: How Americans See Donald Trump Today

Level: Mid-Intermediate | Length: 60 minutes

### Section 1 – Reading Passage

#### How Americans See Donald Trump Today

Donald Trump remains one of the most influential and polarizing figures in American life. In 2025, many Americans see him through sharply different lenses—admiration, frustration, hope, or caution. Supporters view him as a bold outsider who challenges traditional political norms and speaks directly to the public. Critics see him as a divisive figure whose style can overshadow policy details. Yet no matter the perspective, his promises and statements continue to shape national conversation.

A recent example is Trump's announcement of a proposed "tariff dividend." In a Truth Social post on November 9, 2025, he promised that most Americans would receive a dividend of at least \$2,000 funded by tariff revenue. The promise made headlines and sparked strong reactions. Many people welcomed the idea, seeing it as financial relief during a period of high living costs. Others questioned how such a plan would be funded and whether the proposal could be implemented realistically.

Supporters argue that Trump's direct communication style makes his ideas feel bold and refreshing. They believe his approach shows confidence and a willingness to take action. Critics, however, raise concerns about the feasibility of his proposals and the economic impact of tariffs. Economists noted that tariff revenue alone may not cover the cost of a nationwide dividend, raising questions about sustainability.

Public reaction to Trump's \$2,000 promise reflects the broader way Americans see him today. For some, he is a symbol of strength who fights for the average American. For others, he is unpredictable, and his proposals require more scrutiny. Regardless of viewpoint, the promise demonstrates Trump's ongoing ability to influence national debate and capture public attention. Understanding how Americans respond to him provides insight into the country's political climate and the expectations people have of their leaders.

### Section 2 – Vocabulary (meanings provided verbally by teacher)

Tariff, Dividend, Revenue, Feasibility, Sustainability, Scrutiny, Proposal, Economist, Polarizing, Implementation

### Section 3 – Political Idioms (With Origins)

- On the fence – undecided; originally referred to someone sitting between two choices without committing.
- Under fire – receiving heavy criticism; comes from military language describing soldiers under gunfire.

- Hot-button issue – a topic that triggers strong emotions; compares emotional reaction to pressing a button that activates a response.
- Dark horse – an unexpected but strong competitor; originated from 19th-century horse racing.
- Reach across the aisle – attempt cooperation between political parties; based on the U.S. Congress seating arrangement, where each party sits on opposite sides of the aisle.

#### Section 4 – Common Grammar Corrections

Correct: People are supporting the new proposal.

Correct: Trump promises \$2000 for every American.

Correct: Many Americans were unsure about the plan.

Correct: The economists say it will work.

Correct: The dividend is not explained clearly.

#### Section 5 – Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

1. dividend
2. revenue
3. scrutiny
4. sustainability
5. proposal
6. economist
7. tariff

#### Section 6 – Conversation Notes

Guide students to support opinions with examples and idioms.

#### Section 7 – Homework Sample Notes

Students should use vocabulary correctly and express a clear opinion.