

Note-Taking Tool

In this investigation, you'll consider different ideas about economic success and begin to form your own response to a fundamental question: What's an economy for?

Part 1 The Growing Economy

Use the chart to record your observations and analysis of the sources. Then, consider the questions in the second part of the chart to synthesize and reflect on your understanding.

Source Analysis Notes	
Source	According to the source, what changes in people's lives have been associated with economic growth?
Excerpt from "The short history of global living conditions and why it matters that we know it"	
"What did economic growth mean for US households?" by Max Roser	

Synthesis & Reflection

Taken together, what do the sources suggest about why growth is often seen as an important economic goal?

What questions do the sources raise for you?

Part 2 Snapshots of Economic Life

As you read the quotes from Episodes 8, 9, and 10, use the table below to take notes on the various perspectives.

	What economic problems or challenges does this person identify?	How might they react to the perspective of economic growth revealed in Part 1?	What might they say needs to be true for an economy to work well?
Brittany, Durham, NC (Episode 8)			
Josh Bivens, Chief Economist for the Economic Policy Institute (Episode 8)			
Esteban Kelly, Executive Director of the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives (Episode 8)			

	What economic problems or challenges does this person identify?	How might they react to the perspective of economic growth revealed in Part 1?	What might they say needs to be true for an economy to work well?
Dana Meadows, scientist (Episode 9)			
Ugochi Anyaka-Oluigbo, journalist (Episode 10)			

Part 3 The Aim of an Economy

As you watch the video, take notes on Raworth's argument and perspective. Then, consider Raworth's ideas in light of Parts 1 and 2.

Viewing Notes

According to Raworth, why isn't economic growth enough to tell us about whether an economy is working? What examples does she use to support her argument?

How does Raworth propose we go about deciding what an economy should achieve?

Synthesis & Reflection

What connections do you notice between Raworth's perspective, the sources in Part 1, and the quotes in Part 2?

To what extent do you find Raworth's argument convincing? Explain your thinking.

What questions does Raworth's argument raise for you?

Part 4 Reflect: What's an Economy For?

- What do you think an economy should achieve – for people and other living things?
- How is your thinking similar to the perspectives raised in Parts 1, 2, and/or 3? How is it different?
- Revisit the **Features of Capitalism** (<https://sceneonradio.org/explainer/>). To what extent could the goals you identified be achieved within capitalism as you understand it? What, if anything, might stay the same? What, if anything, might need to change?