



## Questions for Classroom Discussion

### **“Up in the Air...”**

- **What are the uses of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (or “drones”)?**
  - ⇒ Consider the military uses, and how drones can go into dangerous areas—and even be used to launch weapons—without putting American soldiers in danger
  - ⇒ Consider the ability of a drone to fly overhead at a low cost, which makes it ideal for surveillance, aerial photography, and videography
  - ⇒ Consider the ability of a drone to travel quickly to high-risk and inconvenient locations, making it great for search & rescue missions, fighting wildfires, and dealing with environmental disasters
  
- **What are the major concerns about using flying drones?**
  - ⇒ Consider the safety concerns (critics have described drones as “flying lawnmowers”), and what could happen if an operator loses contact with the drone
  - ⇒ Consider the risk of drones flying into airplanes or other aircraft (or even other drones) if there aren’t clear rules about when and where they can fly
  - ⇒ Consider the privacy concerns that arise when a small drone can take pictures and video of almost any location while being virtually undetected
  
- **What is the best way to correctly introduce flying drones into commercial and civilian use?**
  - ⇒ Consider the need to create a clear set of laws and rules that dictate when, where, and why flying drones can be used by civilians and businesses
  - ⇒ Consider the need for everyone to make ethical decisions about how flying drones should be used, and how they should NOT be used (for example, as weapons or to invade privacy)
  - ⇒ Consider why it might be necessary to gradually allow flying drones to be used for specific purposes, and then to increase the usage into other areas over time