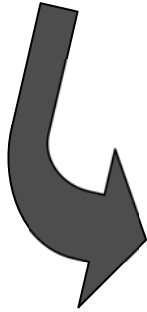


# The Fight for Space

**The Main Problem:** Recently, the United States government reduced funding to NASA and cancelled projects that would send astronauts into space. There were many critics of this action, and the debate continues. You are a scientific adviser to the President of the United States, and must decide on the correct course of action for the government. **Should the United States dedicate more resources to the space program, or are those resources more valuable being used in another way?**



## Is space exploration worth the money?

Students will review a video, primary sources, and an article to decide if space exploration is worth the cost of funding.

### Step

1

Review  
Stimulus

**Stimulus Item #1** - "NASA Moneyshuttle" (cartoons)

**Stimulus Item #2** - "Fight for Space" (video)

**Stimulus Item #3** - "NASA Space Technology Inventions and Products" (article)

*\*\*Students should take notes as they review the Stimulus Items*

### Step

2

Classroom  
Discussion

Lead a **class discussion** about issues related to the topic. You are being provided a sheet to help you guide the classroom discussion.

**Product (Optional):** You are a scientific advisor and have given the president your reasons to either increase or cancel our space program. The president agrees with you and wants you to share your view with the public. In order to gain support for your viewpoint, **design a billboard** that will communicate either the need for more space exploration or the reasons to end space exploration.

### Step

3

Student  
Response

*\*\*\*students should have access to their notes as they enter their answers*

*\*\*\*students may also have access to the Stimulus Items as they enter their answers*

**Extended Response Items:** Have students answer the following questions using the online assessment system. Remind students to use information from the Stimulus Items to support their response.

**1. How has the space program impacted everyday life? Support your answer.**

**2. Should the government continue to fund NASA's space exploration program? Why or why not? Support your answer.**

### Step

4

Analysis

Rubrics to grade student entries have been provided, and all questions have been mapped to the content standards. Results can be analyzed through the online system.