



Questions for Classroom Discussion

Virtual Reality

- **What are examples of “virtual reality” that already exist?**

- ⇒ Consider video games and entertainment venues that use special effects and sometimes special equipment to make the user feel like they are in the game
- ⇒ Consider simulators that are used for training, such as a pilot who must prove he or she can fly in a simulator before going into a real plane
- ⇒ Consider “augmented reality” that allows you to see the world in a new way... this might be as simple as a map on a GPS unit, or a high-tech device like Google Glass, which are glasses that can display images and react to voice commands as you walk

- **What are ways that “virtual reality” technology can be used?**

- ⇒ Consider using virtual reality in education, which could enable students to explore the desert (or even outer space), without ever leaving the classroom
- ⇒ Consider the field of medicine, where doctors might virtually perform new and groundbreaking operations on a virtual patient so that the technique can be mastered before using real people
- ⇒ Consider different sciences, where virtual reality can allow scientists to study things in a new way, such as going inside of a single cell or entering into a live volcano

- **How will new innovations change the way people live, work, and interact in the future?**

- ⇒ Consider innovations of the past that have changed the world (computers, medicine, smartphones, etc.)
- ⇒ Consider how new technology can be used to create more new technology, resulting in what can be called a “snowball effect”
- ⇒ Consider the vision that most people have for the future, and whether it is realistic