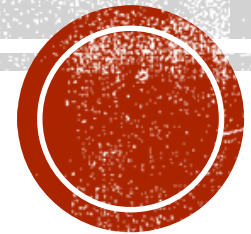


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



**What do you think the
outcome of the vote will be?**

**Who is likely to
benefit, when,
and how?**

**Who could be
harmed, when,
and how?**



Which concerns matter the most, and why?



Risk

Immediate

Human Health

Local

Intended Effects

Highly Probable

Benefit

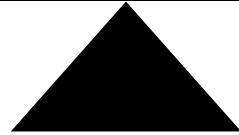
Long Term

Environmental Health

Global

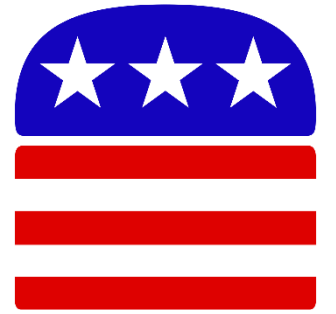
Unintended Effects

Possible, but Unlikely



How are these criteria balanced in decision making? How should they be?

The mayor is up for reelection. How might this influence the positions stated by the mayor?



**Where are the job opportunities
in the 21st century?**

**Do you think that unemployment
and underemployment will be
higher in 50 years than today?**

Though factory work may come back to this city,
the number of workers needed is likely to be a
small fraction of a mid-20th century factory workforce.



Some think that a new technology should not be adopted until its effects are characterized and its safety is assured; others argue that safety can *never* be completely assured in advance, and that this 'precautionary principle' sets up a roadblock to progress.



What needs to be known about the potential consequences of a new technology before it is OK to proceed with its development and distribution?

In what ways are governments responsible for managing the effects of technological change on existing industries, and on worker and consumer safety?

Every technological innovation affects existing industries and jobs—the economic lifeblood of entire communities.



What is an example of 'a pacing problem' with a technology that was new to consumers during your lifetime? Is there always a pacing problem with new technology? Why or why not?

Inventions and products typically surge ahead of ethics, guidelines, and rules about them—this is called 'the pacing problem'. For example, traffic laws, traffic signals, and seatbelts developed many years after the automobile was sold to consumers.

What was the most important, troubling, or surprising thought that you had while considering this case?

Can you think of any real situations that are similar?

The End **(of the East Falls Story)**

The development of new technologies in the real world will always need careful thought from multiple points of view. Keep thinking!

