
Electric Scooters: Problem or Solution?

Segment Length: 1:39 minutes; 5:46 minutes

Videos:

“Bird Scooter Crash Leaves Los Angeles Man with Broken Jaw, Permanent Hearing Damage”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3tHBe_QqQU

“War on Electric Scooters”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?&v=ID542L3koXY>

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. The first video reports that, while they are often available for free, riders of electric scooters don't normally wear helmets. What do you think John Stossel's reaction to this would be?
2. Riders sometimes behave badly when renting electric scooters, according to the first video. How could this be used to argue in favor of banning scooter rental companies? What other solutions might be proposed?
3. What lesson does John Stossel say cities haven't learned about innovators when working with companies like Uber and Airbnb? How could that lesson be applied to scooter rental companies?
4. Jennifer Skees tells John Stossel that social norms will evolve to make things more safe. What does she mean?
5. The city of San Francisco says scooters are dangerous. What advantages do scooters offer San Francisco?
6. Jennifer Skees points out that no one seriously considers banning bicycles. How does this relate to scooters?
7. Some people resist electric scooters as a sign of gentrification. What is their view?
8. What impact might scooter rental have on the economy because recharging offers a new way to earn money? What about the effect of increasing access to low-cost transport?

