
Online Eye Tests: Innovative or Dangerous?

Segment Length: 1:50 minutes; 4:11 minutes

Videos:

“Online Eye Tests And Your Eye Health”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?&v=nP68t2w32i4>

“Stossel: Eye Test Innovators vs. Bottleneckers”

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

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. John Stossel says the American Optometric Association is a bottlenecking group. Why might the AOA stand to gain from an online test ban?
2. The benefit of banning online eye tests like Opternative is that in order to get a corrective lens prescription, patients must see an optometrist who can also check for more serious diseases like glaucoma and diabetes. What is the cost of banning these online tests?
3. Optometrists who belong to the AOA argue that outlawing online eye exams will force patients into higher quality care and better outcomes. Consider the accessibility of cheap, online tests to answer the following question: Why could banning online tests be worse for some patients' optic health?
4. The AOA and its optometrists might say that Americans are ill-equipped to make decisions about their own eye care. Why does John Stossel favor giving people a choice?
5. Dick Carpenter compares eye exams to Chevrolets and Cadillacs, saying that many Americans are satisfied with a less expensive, online test. How would you expect the AOA to respond?
6. According to the AOA, 92% of Americans prefer a comprehensive test to online exams, and 86% prefer face-to-face interaction with their eye doctor. In-person exams seem to be the overwhelming choice of Americans, and John Stossel favors choice. Why, then, does Stossel not agree with the AOA about online testing?