

---

# Robots and Jobs: Should We Be Worried?

---

Segment Length: 4:43 minutes; 6:20 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Will a Robot Take Your Job?”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_664CdeFkc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_664CdeFkc)

“(2018 DVD) Robots & Driverless Cars”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wx99eR4VAA>

## **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. In the CNN clip Martin Ford says increased automation is an integral part of capitalism. What attributes of capitalism does he say lead to automation? How does the Japanese hotel John Stossel shows relate to this?
2. Martin Ford thinks jobs like nursing and teaching are relatively safe from the effects of automation. Why? Even if such jobs are not replaced entirely by new technology, how could artificial intelligence reduce the employment opportunities in such careers?
3. How could automated cars make America’s roads safer, as John Stossel contends?
4. Machines are better than people at many tasks, James Miller tells John Stossel. How might Martin Ford describe such tasks?
5. James Miller predicts that truck drivers employed by Wal-Mart may lose their jobs as a result of automation, but John Stossel adds that Wal-Mart’s reduced prices will create new opportunities. How so?
6. John Stossel cites historical examples to show that revolutions in production have displaced workers before. Why might Martin Ford feel that the current technological revolution is different? (Remember Ford’s comment that some jobs are now easier to replace than others.)
7. How does James Miller describe the process driving economic growth?

8. John Stossel asks what the economy today would look like if government had always worked to protect jobs from new technology. How do you think Stossel would answer his own question?
9. James Miller and John Stossel, looking at history, seem to think that technological progress will make life better despite replacing some jobs. Why might revolutions in production seem better in hindsight? What does this have to say about the current technological revolution?