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# Private Space Travel

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Segment Length: 3:48 minutes; 5:36 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Should We Leave The Future of Space in the Hands of Private Companies?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3CskU391hE>

“SpaceX Does What Government Won’t”

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

## **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. Robert Zubrin says, “When you don’t have a truly commanding purpose, the purpose of the program becomes to supply money to various suppliers.” How would Peter Ward reply?
2. Peter Ward says “there’s a lot of money to be made in space.” Is this a problem? Why/Why not?
3. John Stossel says that private companies are good at innovating, while governments are not. Do you agree? Why/Why not?
4. Peter Ward is concerned that private companies could monopolize space travel, giving them “an outrageous amount of power.” How would John Stossel respond?
5. Both Peter Ward and John Stossel are concerned about organizations using space for their own profit; Ward fears private companies dominating space for power and money, while Stossel’s concern is that the government uses the space travel industry to line the pockets of its cronies. Is there common ground here?
6. After watching these videos, do you think private space travel is good for the future? Why/Why not?