

Student Guide

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Social and Ethical Issues in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

Discussion Questions

1. Are any of the technologies shown in the movie currently available or do you think they will be available during your lifetime?
2. What social and ethical issues related to science and technology are raised in the movie?
3. Even though the portrayal is fictional, can the social and ethical issues portrayed apply to real life?
4. Does a scientist or technologist have a responsibility to consider SEI in his or her research?
5. If not, whose responsibility is it to consider social and ethical issues related to science and technology?
6. Does science and technology favor a particular value system, cultural view, or ideological stance?
7. Who decides what is socially and ethically acceptable in science and technology?
8. What are some socially accepted assumptions about science and technology? (e.g., scientific and technological progress is desirable.)
9. What, if anything, can be gained by questioning these assumptions?

Useful web sites for more information about SEI:

<http://www.sei.nnin.org>

This site has information and resources on SEI for students and teachers. It is part of the National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network.

<http://www.nano.gov>

This site gives information on the National Nanotechnology Initiative. There is a section for K-12 students and teacher resources.

<http://www.nano-and-society.org/>

Articles about nano in the news.

<http://www.icta.org>

The International Center for Technology Assessment (CTA) website discusses many social and ethical issues related to emerging technologies.