



You Decide!

Which technologies should we make?

Try this!



Look at all the green cards with different technologies. Which of these technologies are the most important, in your opinion? Put them in order.

Do other people in your group have different opinions?



Now choose one of the yellow cards with people on them.

Pretend you're the person on the card. Do you think that person would decide the same technologies are important? Why might they choose differently?

Different people think different technologies are important. Our values influence the technologies we make and use.

What's going on?

There is no right or wrong way to sort the cards. You might put the technologies in a different order from one of your friends, someone in your family, or someone else in a different part of the world.

Sometimes, it's hard for us to know which technologies another person might value. Safety is a priority for many parents, so they might pay for alarm systems for their home or cell phones for their children. Other people can't afford an alarm system, or don't want one.

Technologies and society influence each other. For example, security is a priority for the US government, so a lot of our national budget goes toward military funding.



Thin-film solar cell

How is this nano?

Nanotechnology takes advantage of the different physical forces at the nanoscale to make new materials and tiny devices smaller than 100 nanometers in size. Nanotechnology allows scientists and engineers to make things like smaller, faster computer chips and new medicines to treat diseases like cancer.



Tea bag water filter

People's values shape how nanotechnologies are developed and adopted. In our country, a lot of our work developing new nanotechnologies goes toward computing, energy, medicine, and military applications. These efforts reflect what we collectively think is important. In other countries, people choose to invest in different kinds of technologies.