

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Many Americans Unprepared for Transition to All-Digital TV, 03/26/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/media/jan-june08/tv_3-26.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What will happen on Feb. 17, 2009?

2. Why is the change being made?

3. What is the difference between analog and digital?

4. What is happening to the part of the broadcast spectrum that will no longer be used?

5. How do you know if you are prepared for the transition?

6. Why are there privacy concerns about digital television?

7. What should you do if your television needs to be updated?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What are the pros and cons of requiring television stations to broadcast digitally?

2. Should the government be allowed to require that consumers and broadcasters switch to digital? Why or why not?

3. Look at the televisions in your home. Would any of them need a converter box? Discuss the topic with your parents. Do they have plans to order cable, buy a new television or a converter box because of the switch? If so, how do they feel about having to make adjustments?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.