

Reading Comprehension/Discussion Questions:

The following questions can help guide discussion about the paragraph and check for student comprehension. In addition to asking students to consult the paragraph for answers to the questions, teachers can invite students to go beyond the paragraph and tap into their own personal beliefs about the week's topic.

- » According to the passage, what is wiretapping?
- » Why did President Bush support secret wiretapping?
- » Why do some people think secret wiretapping is a good idea?
- » Why do some people oppose secret wiretapping?
- » Do you think wiretapping is a good way to catch terrorists?

Activity: *Debating the Issue*

Whatever the debate format, ask students to use academically productive talk in arguing their positions. In particular, students should provide reasons and evidence to back up their assertions. It may be helpful to read the sample positions in the Teacher Notes section of this guide to illustrate some possibilities, but students should be encouraged to take their own positions on the issue at hand.

Position 1: Secret wiretapping should be allowed. The government should have the right to listen to people's conversations and read their e-mails or their Internet history. It will keep the United States safe from possible attacks.

Position 2: Secret wiretapping is not acceptable. The government invades our privacy by reading our email and listening to our conversations. We should be able to write and talk about what we want, as long as we do not hurt anyone.

Position 3: If the United States is in danger and there are people who might harm our country, secret wiretapping should be used. The government needs to ask a court first before doing it, though.

Position 4: Wiretapping should only be allowed if the government warns people first.