



The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Every day, thousands of inventors and businesses all over the world turn to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to protect their intellectual property.

Conversation Club Discussion Questions

1. After watching this video, how would you define a patent?
2. The video explains lots of reasons why people apply for a patent. What are they? Why would you apply for a patent?
3. Were you surprised by the number of patents that the United States Patent and Trademark Office processes each year (the number given is over 500,000)?
4. Why would patents have an expiration date? Have you ever heard of a product or technology going off-patent and so becoming part of the public domain? What was it?
5. What are the three requirements needed to get a patent? Do those requirements make sense to you? What requirements might you add?
6. One man interviewed in the video talks about seeing approved patents later as a feature or technology in cellphones or computers. What new innovations can you think of that didn't previously exist in the everyday devices you use?
7. This video explains that ideas generate new ideas and so patents will eventually lead to more patents. Can you think of an example of this process in your own life?
8. What is the best new invention or technology that you can think of? Why is it the best?