Student Reproducible 4

Perspectives on Technology

Name: _____

In Chicago, Washington, D.C., and other U.S. cities, police have been installing video cameras on street corners where crime is common. The cameras feed back to the police station, where officers can use computer technology to monitor suspicious individuals. The network in D.C. can zoom in on people or license plates from as far away as half a mile. A similar system in London has reportedly cut crime by about 5 percent.

Not everyone is happy with the new technology. Critics claim that cameras don't deter crime but just move it into areas without video surveillance. Others say that citizens should be able to walk the streets without the government watching them. But supporters insist that innocent people have nothing to hide.

What do you think? How do you think this technology will affect society in the next 10, 20, or 50 years? Based on research, write a scientific journal entry stating your opinion.

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Technology Hits the Streets

Geo-spatial mapping

When emergency situations strike, first responders—firefighters, police officers, and paramedics—need to get to the scene quickly. Soon, geo-spatial mapping may help them navigate city streets. A system of sensors can create a three-dimensional map of roads and buildings. Updated continuously, the program could show real-time traffic flow, bottlenecks caused by road construction, and even damage assessment after a natural disaster. That beats a siren any day!