



Suggested Topics for Classroom Discussion

- Everyday our lives depend on transportation. What are some of the different ways we travel (e.g., car, bus, bike, boat, airplane, on foot, etc.)? How many of these have each student used? (The following web page contains *The Transportation Profession* presentation which includes information on all modes of travel: [http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/education/presentations/trans_profession/.](http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/education/presentations/trans_profession/))
- Signs help us understand how and where to drive, walk, or travel. Discuss the meaning of signs and why they are important. (The following web page contains the *Sign the Way* module which includes six activities that help familiarize students with the principles behind the design and use of traffic signs: [http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/education/presentations/sign_the_way/.](http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/education/presentations/sign_the_way/))
- Ask students to talk about people they know who work in transportation (e.g., pilot, construction, engineer, bus driver, etc.). Also talk about how transportation affects other jobs (e.g., grocery store worker, salesman, teachers, etc.).
- Transportation moves peoples as well as goods. Identify products that are carried by different modes of transportation (e.g., trains move grain, coal, oil, automobiles, lumber, etc; barges move steel, grain, sand, oil, gravel, etc.; airplanes move perishables, mails, etc.; commercial vehicles move perishables, grain, lumber, automobiles, oil, etc.).
- Trace the steps a letter takes from a student's home to a relative in a distant town. Identify all the modes of transportation that might be used in that mail delivery.
- Discuss how transportation has changed over time, and how it has affected the way society has developed. (The following web page contains *The History of Transportation* presentation: [http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/education/presentations/trans_history/.](http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/education/presentations/trans_history/))
- Discuss the future of transportation...what will it look like in the year 2050?
- Invite a parent or person who works in transportation to speak with the students. (Contact Melisa Finley, TexITE Committee for Future Engineers Chair, 979-845-7596, m-finley@tamu.edu for more information).