

Name: Davis Reyes

Per 2

SOCRATIC SEMINAR TOPIC:

THE ETHICS OF DRONES

10

Deliberation Question: Is it ethical to use drones?

Initial Thoughts: Before you start your research, write your response to the question as of this moment. Make sure you thoroughly explain your position:

It's ethical to use drones to replace workers or soldiers that would otherwise be in harm's way in the battlefield or a burning building. Of course, it's also ethical to use them

Part I (20 points)

Watch the video on drones posted to the class website.

For recreational purposes such as photography, the only thing that would be a problem is unnecessary surveillance/spy drones that invade everyone's privacy.

Background - According to the video, provide a summary regarding the uses of drones and how they are regulated.

Drones hold a myriad of potential applications such as delivery, military action, recreation, and aerial surveillance. Besides ⁱⁿ delivery services, they are a vastly growing product in the market as of right now, and they are predicted to continue to grow even further. They are regulated by their manufacturing companies that mostly prohibit their use over federal facilities, and that they leave the

| Describe the PRO's of Drone's (give at least 3) | Describe the CON's of drone's (give at least 3) |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- keeps soldiers/workers out of harms way- makes for better photography and videography- myriad of potential applications (military, commercial, fun)- cheaper to use in the military | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- can be used to spy on people- traumatize local populations in targeted areas- creates more controversy and complicates the case of prosecuting a strike (so much secrecy)- disconnect us from war- can be a pest in any area |

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Part II (20 points)

Find 2 articles related to the use of drones. One article should lean toward the PRO side and the other in favor of the CON side. Be sure that the source is reliable, scholarly, and supported by facts.

Write down your sources and title:

PRO: Drone Uses: The Awesome Benefits of Drone Technology (mydronebob.com)

CON: The Downside of Drones (rang.org)

Describe at least 3 evidences/arguments cited by each article regarding the PRO's or CON's of drone's (If you need more space, staple additional papers to this handout.)

The first article discusses the military uses of drones. It says how since Obama's presidency, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles have proved to be effective in eliminating targets w/ minimum casualties and in the process minimize the risk of harm to actual soldiers. Aerial footage has also been improved by drones in the world of media. Photography, journalism, and film have all boomed recently b/c of the easy access drones provide to near impossible shots. They also have a lot of potential in the police department, to be used to locate suspects w/o being spotted.

Part III - Reflection after our Socratic Seminar (10 points)

1. What did I decide (regarding the deliberation question) and why? Did I change my original position?

If so, what made me change this position? I initially decided that the use of drones for US security was unethical. I didn't completely change my position, but I do see now how drones in the field can be useful for tactical surveillance & ground support (as they brought up).

2. What did someone else say or do that was particularly helpful?

Katie's opening statement brought up some helpful statistics about the lack of licensing for prospective millions of drone pilots that I used to answer questions from the other side.

3. Of all the arguments presented, which of the articles or evidences was the most compelling to you? Explain your answer. Include why this resonated with you.

One of the most compelling arguments brought up in the debate was the point that if drones are not used to actually kill anyone, they are a lot more ethical and can still provide a great service to the military.

The second article makes the opposing point that drones are not properly suited for military use. Without actual soldiers on the ground executing a mission, there is no way that any vital pieces of evidence can be collected to advance ^{the position} in a war. The drone is simply there to make the kill and nothing else, and thus, "the critical intelligence that is needed to ensure that the tactical strike can be converted to strategic advantage" is destroyed. The article also makes the point that drones minimizing the risk of injury to soldiers is not enough for their complete deployment. Those who enlist have made their choice to serve their country, and therefore it'd be better to ensure that "maximum advantage is reaped from this act of war". Finally, according to the article, drones are also not as tactical as they are made out to be since many adversaries have "become increasingly sophisticated in learning how to outmaneuver drones". Thus, funds are being wasted in their investments if the soldiers can do a better job.