

Comments about surveillance to discuss:

1. Surveillance goes against human rights.
2. Surveillance is useful in fighting freedom.
3. Surveillance is a good way to achieve safer driving.
4. More surveillance should be used in schools.
5. Surveillance is not a problem if you have nothing to hide.
6. Surveillance is a natural result of modern technology.
7. Surveillance makes citizens act in a moral way.
8. I know my rights in terms of surveillance.
9. The right amount of surveillance is used in my country.
10. Surveillance is relevant to my life.

RESOURCE A: Case studies

Surveillance: carefully watching someone/a location due to a crime having happened or being expected. Surveillance is undertaken by organisations such as the police and the army.

Case Study 1

How would you feel if you found out that you had been watched closely by your local council? This happened to Jenny Paton and her family. For almost a month, their movements were put under surveillance and their car was followed by Poole Borough Council.

Ms Paton and her family were under this level of surveillance due to complaints from members of the public. The council had been informed that the family were pretending to live in a house so that their children would be given places at a local school.

The family made an official complaint once they realised that they were under surveillance. They were pleased with the outcome of an Investigatory Powers Tribunal; it was ruled that the level of surveillance was unnecessary and that as such it was a breach of their human rights. As a result of the tribunal, Poole Borough Council were informed that they had misused the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act.

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Case Study 2

Do you think that surveillance should be used to catch out law-breakers? Research was recently undertaken by the Liberal Democrats to explore how anti-terrorism powers are being used in the UK. Surveillance techniques have been used tens of thousands of times in the last decade, and yet only 9 per cent of surveillance leads to a caution or prosecution.

Former MP Jacqui Smith commented that the government should not use surveillance equipment to 'spy' on law-abiding citizens. She does not feel that activities such as emptying bins or clearing up after a dog should be under camera scrutiny.

Another politician, John Healey, said that the public must trust the way in which surveillance is used by the government. He asserts that surveillance can be a relevant tool in terms of dealing with fly-tipping and illegal trading.

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Case Study 3

Say cheese! Did you know that there are over 60,000 surveillance cameras in use by UK local authorities? This fact was revealed by an organisation called 'Big Brother Watch', which requested information from every local council.

Alex Deane from 'Big Brother Watch' believes that CCTV cameras were introduced to the public as a way to reduce crime, but that they are only having a very small impact on this. He has also pointed out that CCTV networks are expensive to create and that CCTV footage can be unreliable. Mr Deane feels strongly that citizens would prefer to be protected by the police rather than by cameras. He also believes that members of the public undertaking innocent activities (such as walking into a building) do not need to be filmed.

A study by the Metropolitan Police has revealed that only one crime is solved per thousand CCTV cameras annually.

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Case Study 4

How would you like to earn some spare cash? A website called 'Internet Eyes' offers citizens the chance to earn money by connecting to CCTV online and reporting any live crimes that occur. Up to £1,000 is available for people who observe a crime taking place!

Those interested in taking part simply have live CCTV images sent to their computer, and are encouraged to report criminal activity. The system works by collecting money from owners of the cameras (who do not necessarily have the time or staff to watch CCTV footage themselves).

The site takes advantage of the fact that some citizens are so accustomed to CCTV that they commit crimes even when next to a camera. The idea is that word will spread about 'Internet Eyes' so that these kind of crimes will stop.

The website operates a points system. For example, one point is awarded if you report a would-be crime and three points are available for reporting an actual crime.

The site has received mixed responses within the UK. Some citizens feel that it creates an uncomfortable atmosphere and that crime fighting should be left to the experts.

EsL debates: Safe and Sorry: A Video for Discussion <https://www.esldebates.com/better-to-be-safe-than-sorry-government-surveillance/>

Useful vocab to talk about surveillance:

Match the vocab on the left with the definitions on the right.

1. Terrorism	a. Supervision focused on one particular individual who is a suspect of terrorisms or other crimes.
2. Civil liberties	b. USA government surveillance office.
3. Terrorist Surveillance Program	c. Fundamental rights that every citizen should be entitled to have as a part of society.
4. Hijackers	d. To encipher or encode a message or a digital signal.
5. Leak	e. Government program dedicated to supervising all citizen movement and personal information if they are considered possible terrorists.
6. NSA (National Security Agency)	f. The constant condition of being closely watched by the government.
7. Encryption	g. The legal principle that establishes that there should be balancing between competing values in order to decide the appropriate magnitude of a measure.
8. Surveillance state	h. Spreading of secret information by an unnamed source.
9. The principle of Proportionality	i. The use of violence and threats to frighten and force one's will on another, esp. for political purposes.
10. Targeted surveillance	j. Terrorists that capture or control a vehicle with people to hold them as hostages or kill them.

Video comprehension questions:

Read the questions below and first have a guess as to what the answers might be. Then watch the video and try to answer as many questions as you can.

- a) When was the Terrorist surveillance program created?
- b) How many suspects were called for interviews by the FBI?
- c) How many terrorists were found after all that investigation by the FBI?
- d) When did the Snowden leak happen?
- e) Which companies were touched by the NSA to retrieve information?
- f) Who was already a target of the FBI before the surveillance programs?
- g) Why did Apple decline to disable the encryption of the iPhone software?
- h) What can the NSA already do to spy on people?
- i) What happened after the Paris Attacks?
- j) Which country has undermined freedom of speech in the last few years? How?