valuing technology

society influences technology

technology affects society

9-12

Social and economic forces strongly influence which technologies will be developed and used. Which will prevail is affected by many factors, such as personal values, consumer acceptance, patent laws, the

The value of any given technology may be different for different groups of people and at different points in time.

Technology usually affects society more directly than science does because technology solves practical problems and serves human needs (and also creates new problems and needs).

Progress in science and invention depends heavily on what else is happening in society, and history often depends on scientific and technological developments.

6-8

Technology cannot always provide successful solutions to problems or fulfill all human needs.

Rarely are technology issues simple and one-sided. Relevant facts alone, even when known and available, usually do not settle matters. That is because contending groups may have different values and priorities. They may stand to gain or lose in

Societies influence what aspects of technology are developed and how these are used. People control technology (as well as science) and are responsible for its effects.

Technology is largely responsible for the great revolutions in agriculture, manufacturing, sanitation and medicine, warfare, transportation, information processing, and communications that have radically changed how people live and

Technologies having to do with food production, sanitation, and health care have dramatically changed how people live and work and have resulted in rapid increases in the human population.

3-5

Technology is an intrinsic part of human culture, it both shapes society and is shaped by it. The technology available to people greatly influences what their lives are like.

Any invention is likely to lead to other inventions. Once an invention exists, people are likely to think up ways of using it that were never imagined at first.

Transportation, communications, nutrition, sanitation, health care, entertainment, and other technologies give large numbers of people today the goods and services that were once luxuries enjoyed only by the wealthy.

K-2

People, alone or in groups, are always inventing new ways to solve problems and get work done. The tools and ways of doing things that people have invented affect all aspects of life.