

# Zoom Discussion Topics

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## Upcoming Discussion(s)

**20230625 – Planned Zoom Discussion – topic suggestions?**

## Possible Future and Continuing Discussion Areas

### Miscellaneous Topics

#### Political Strategy, The National Debt, Other Items

This topic is a catch-all for items that seem important but did not fit nicely into one of the other topics and were not large enough for a topic of their own.

- The “Two Santas” Strategy
  - [The Debt Ceiling Is Just “Two Santas” in Drag](#)
  - Jude Wanniski ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jude\\_Wanniski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jude_Wanniski)) – The originator of the “Two Santas” strategy

#### The Supreme Court

- Previously discussed: 20230129 – The Supreme Court
- The Shadow Docket: How the Supreme Court Uses Stealth Rulings to Amass Power and Undermine the Republic by Stephen Vladeck, Jonathan Todd Ross, et al. ([Kindle Book](#)), Basic Books, May 16, 2023 (see 93 second video from the author about The Shadow Docket on the Kindle book page).
  - Author Interview: CNN Politics: [How Congress lost control of the Supreme Court](#), What Matters, Zachary B. Wolf, May 13, 2023
- [20230529-NYT-The Supreme Court Is Crippling Environmental Protections - Where Is Congress.pdf](#)

#### COVID

- [A Collection of COVID Articles](#)
- Book: [The Premonition: A Pandemic Story by Michael Lewis](#)
  - Review: [20210506-NYT-Michael Lewis Chronicles the Story of Covid’s Cassandras.pdf](#)
  - NPR: [Michael Lewis' 'The Premonition' Is A Sweeping Indictment Of The CDC](#)

#### The Transition to Electric Vehicles

It is clear from the investments that Governments and Auto Manufacturers are making that the future of ground transportation is in electric vehicles.

- EVs are 80% of new sales in Norway - [20230508-NYT-In Norway, the Electric Vehicle Future Has Already Arrived.pdf](#)
- [20230504-NYT-We Desperately Need a New Power Grid. Here’s How to Make It Happen.pdf](#)

# Zoom Discussion Topics

## Private Equity Firms Are Gutting America

Through the use of leveraged buyouts private equity firms are corporate vampires extracting the value from businesses and leaving behind a debt-ridden husk.

- Book: These Are the Plunderers: How Private Equity Runs—and Wrecks—America, Gretchen Morgenson, Joshua Rosner, John Bedford Lloyd, Simon & Schuster (April 25, 2023), [Kindle Edition](#), [Audible Edition](#)
- Interview: How private equity firms are widening the income gap in the U.S.; Gretchen Morgenson is interviewed by Fresh Air's Terry Gross; [NPR Fresh Air 4/26/2023](#)
- [20230428-NYT-Private Equity Is Gutting America and Getting Away With It.pdf](#)
- [Vulture Capitalism? How Private Equity Firms Work, NPR Talk of the Nation, 20210119](#)
- [20191030-Forbes-Private Equity Firms Have Caused Painful Job Losses And More Are Coming.pdf](#)
- [Leveraged Buyout \(Wikipedia\)](#)

## The Body's Electrome – You Can't Live Without It

In recent years there has been much progress in understanding and manipulating the body's natural electric fields. Terry Gross, host of NPR's Fresh Air interviewed Sally Adee on March 6, 2023 and states "Her new book, "We Are Electric," is about how medical and tech researchers are experimenting with possible ways to manipulate the body's electrical fields to treat or cure diseases and conditions, including depression, wounds, broken bones, cancer and paralysis."

- Fresh Air interview with Sally Adee on her book "We Are Electric" -- <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/08/1161897128/how-researchers-are-trying-to-harness-the-electricity-in-the-human-body>
- Sally Adee's book "We Are Electric" on Amazon -- <https://www.amazon.com/We-Are-Electric-200-Year-Bioelectric-ebook/dp/B0B38SVPBZ>
- [20230323-Guardian-Smart bandage with biosensors could help chronic wounds heal](#)

# Zoom Discussion Topics

## **Fundamentalist Capitalism and the anti-Government Cabal**

Was "Little House on the Prairie" an industry marketing campaign? Was Ronald Reagan bought and paid for by GE? Did deregulation and lack of enforcement cause many of today's problems? Who removed the section on regulation from Adam Smith's [The Wealth of Nations](#)? The right wing conservatives have been working on making industry look good and government look bad since the 1920s or earlier. They have propagandized school textbooks, technical papers, as well as radio and TV programs.

- The Big Myth: How American Business Taught Us to Loathe Government and Love the Free Market, [Kindle Edition](#), [Audible Edition](#), Naomi Oreskes, Erik M. Conway, Bloomsbury Publishing
- 'The Big Myth' explores the belief that free markets are a fundamental American right, [NPR Here & Now Podcast](#), February 28, 2023
- [20230412-NYT-The Republican Strategists Who Have Carefully Planned All of This.pdf](#)
- [20230425-NYT-Republicans Did Something Most People Don't Like, So They're Changing the Rules.pdf](#)
- [20230428-NYT-The Most Dangerous Person in the World Is Randi Weingarten.pdf](#)

## **Conservatives/Republicans and Racial/Religious Intolerance**

Is the right terminally infected with racist tendencies? Is condemning antisemitism non-survivable for an elected Republican?

- [20221129-NYT-The Table for Trump's Antisemitic Banquet Was Set Long Ago.pdf](#)

## **Are Liberals their Own Worst Enemy?**

Does Liberalism block solutions for homelessness? Does Liberalism increase crime?

- [20221212-Atlantic-The Obvious Answer to Homelessness.pdf](#)
- [20221212-NYT-The Root Cause of Violent Crime Is Not What We Think It Is.pdf](#)

## **Do Social Security and Medicare Need Fixing?**

- [20230218-NYT-Fixing Social Security and Medicare Where the Parties Stand.pdf](#)

## **2024 – What matters? Age? Other things?**

- [20230219-NYT-We're Not Asking the Right Question About Biden](#)

## **COVID, Public Health, Are we ready for the next one?**

- [20230222-NYT-Is the United States Ready for Back-to-Back Pandemics](#)
- [20230203-NYT-An Even Deadlier Pandemic Could Soon Be Here](#)
- [The Premonition: A Pandemic Story by Michael Lewis](#)

# Zoom Discussion Topics

## Rural Health Care in Crisis / Drug Costs too

- [20230226-NYT-Rural Hospitals Are Shuttering Their Maternity Units](#)
- [20230228-NYT-A Drug Company Exploited a Safety Requirement to Make Money.pdf](#)

## Environmentalism (this topic under development)

- <https://blackgirlenvironmentalist.org/>

## Previous Discussions

### 20230521 – Chat AIs – demo and discussion

Chat AIs are being made available on the internet from various sources such as OpenAI, Microsoft, and Google. These AIs are designed in such a way that a user can hold a limited conversation with them and/or ask them to produce a specific document.

- [20230521 Zoom Discussion Notes.pdf](#)
- If you want to try Chat type AIs yourself:
  - <https://chat.openai.com> – ChatGPT, the Open AI created the one you hear about most
  - Microsoft's AI that is built into the Microsoft Edge Browser and some other related tools may be obtained from <https://www.microsoftedgeinsider.com/en-us/download/dev>

### 20230430 – Gun Culture

Can anything be done about America's Toxic Gun Culture?

- [20221210-NYT-America's Toxic Gun Culture Is Invading Our Politics.pdf](#)
- [20221213-NYT-Republicans Are Breaking With the N.R.A., and It's Because of Us.pdf](#)
- [20230227-NYT-New Yorks Gun Laws Sow Confusion as Nation Rethinks Regulation.pdf](#)
- [20230414-NYT-Republican 2024 Hopefuls Embrace Gun Politics at NRA Meeting](#)
- [20230414-NYT-Republican 2024 Hopefuls Embrace Gun Politics at NRA Meeting With Visible Links](#)
- [20230422-NYT-It Is a Delusion to Think Having a Gun in the Home Makes Us Safer.pdf](#)
- [20230423-NYT-What Should Christians Do About Guns.pdf](#)
- [Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence](#)
- [Colorado Ceasefire Legislation Page](#)
- Gun Violence Archive (<https://gunviolencearchive.org>) – Need statistics about gun violence? This likely has everything you need.

# Zoom Discussion Topics

- Other NY Times Gun Violence Links (to NYT Website)
  - **The Emotional Toll:** We asked Times readers how the threat of gun violence has affected their mental state and the way they lead their lives. [Here's what they told us.](#)
  - **A Growing Tally:** Gun violence is a persistent American problem. A partial list of mass shootings this year offers [a glimpse at the scope.](#)
  - **Gun Control:** U.S. gun laws are at the center of heated exchanges between those in favor and against tougher regulations. Here is [what to know about that debate.](#)

## 20230129 – The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court – Can / Should it be limited?

How can we keep the court bipartisan? Should the court reflect the will of the majority of the populace? Make sure you read at least the intro on the first article below (How We Got Here).

- [20201027-NYT-How to Fix the Supreme Court.pdf \(8 sub-articles\)](#)
- [20220930-NYT-The Supreme Court Is Broken. Where's Biden.pdf](#)
- [20221001-NYT-The Supreme Court Isn't Listening, and It's No Secret Why.pdf](#)
- [20221122-NYT-The Case for Supreme Court Term Limits Just Got a Lot Better.pdf](#)
- [20221129-NYT-How the Supreme Court Is Erasing Consequential Decisions in the Lower Courts.pdf](#)
- [The Case Against the Supreme Court, Erwin Chemerinsky, Penguin 2014](#)

## 20230101 - Overpopulation

Presentation (10 min) – Frank Lilly

- Overpopulation: Why it is a problem and how we can help
  - Brief overview of the problems associated with overpopulation
  - Where overpopulation is occurring
  - Which organizations are trying to do something about it
  - Link to presentation slides – [pdf](#) | [pptx](#)
- Note that the overpopulation topic was also considered for discussion at our November 20, 2022 Zoom discussion with the title "Do we need more or fewer people in the world?"

## 20221218 – Grief and Loss

Grief and Loss

- Anderson Cooper has a podcast "All There Is" ([Listen on Spotify](#))
- [When My Father Died I Discovered the Unmentionable Stage of Mourning Relief](#)
- [What My Father's Death Taught Me About Living](#)

## 20221211 - FIRC

Family & Intercultural Resource Center – Sarah Grant

- [Presentation Slides](#)

# Zoom Discussion Topics

## 20221120 – Plastic Recycling

Plastic Recycling - From Bill Hyde and The New York Times

- [Why most plastic isn't getting recycled](#)

## 20221030 – COVID, Descendant, RSV

- New COVID variants - BQ.1, BQ.1.1, BF.7 - [NYT Article](#)
- Are we prepared for the next pandemic? What needs to change? - [NatGeo Article](#)
- "Descendant" (Netflix documentary) - LINKS: [watch trailer](#), [watch movie](#), [IMDB Listing](#), [Movieweb Review](#), [Barracoon \(Amazon\)](#)
- RSV - new treatments and vaccine on the way - [NatGeo Article](#)

## 20221016 – Third Party Candidates

- [Third Party Presidential Candidates in the USA](#)

## 20220918 – Court Decisions on Abortions

- [Court Decision on Abortion - References](#)

## 20220822 – General Discussion

- [Generic Discussion Topic List](#)

## 20220814 – Climate Crisis Responses

- [What Constitutes a Moral Response to Climate Crisis](#)

## Previous Undated Discussions

Calcification, Parity, and Cultural Backlash - From Bill Hyde and The New York Times

- [Three Theories That Explain This Strange Moment](#)
- [Hillary Clinton Accepted Her Loss, but a Lot Has Changed Since 2016](#)

Did Dems Win Because of COVID? - From Don Parsons and Thats Another Fine Mess

- [Making America Great Again](#)

What is 219,000 deaths year-to-date? Pandemic? Epidemic? Nothing? - From Bill Hyde and The New York Times

- [As the Pandemic Drags On, Americans Struggle for New Balance](#)
- [The End of Vaccines at Warp Speed](#)

Do we need more or fewer people in the world? - From Joanne Michalski and Scientific American

- [The World Population Just Hit 8 Billion and Here's How It Will Continue to Grow](#)
- [The Population Question](#)