

## Mars for Earthlings

**LESSON 22: Space Issues*****In-Class Activity 2***

Space Issues\_MFE

*Space Flight going Private*

**Purpose:** Become aware of private companies pursuing space flight and their role outside of NASA's Mission directorate (government vs. private funding).

***Dragon docking with the ISS***

Watch the following video of Space X's Dragon spacecraft docking with the ISS:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwDCWTqNceQ&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwDCWTqNceQ&feature=player_embedded)

- a. What is significant about this event?
  
- b. What are your reactions to this venture?

**Government vs. Privatization**

1. Make a list of the pros and cons of private companies taking over the space program:

ProsCons

2. Space X is awarded the manned-space flight contract.  
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZJk4CrxtQ&feature=youtu.be>  
If you had the money, would you buy a seat? Why or why not?
  
3. Why is the Space X craft remarkable?  
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSF81yjVbJE&feature=related>
  
4. What do you think of *Space X's* Mars Business Model?  
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fS1FxBq64A&feature=relmfu>

**Final Verdict**

As a class, come to a final verdict "as congress" on whether or not NASA should privatize. Compromise is likely necessary.

