



Guided Discussion Prompts: Death By Design

Death By Design (2016). In an investigation that spans the globe, filmmaker Sue Williams investigates the underbelly of the electronics industry and reveals how even the smallest devices have deadly environmental and health costs. Feel free to use the guided discussion prompts below, or come up with your own! Available to rent for £3.88 at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/deathbydesign>

1. The theme for this years Go Green Week is "End Climate Co2onialism". Electronics factories, as well as causing local pollution, are also major carbon emitters. How do you think brands, such as Apple, Samsung etc., are contributing to "Corporate Colonialism"?
2. The documentary highlighted that migrants from rural areas are often those most likely to end up working in electronics factories. How do you think that this is linked to climate change?
3. Universities are major purchasers of IT equipment. They have far more purchasing power than we, as individuals, have. How can we use our position of privilege within a university to create meaningful change for electronics workers?
Note: Beware of boycotts! Sometimes boycotts are necessary, especially when they have been called for by the workers themselves, but a mass boycott of a particular brand of electronic goods might lead to job losses - which is the exact opposite of what we are trying to achieve.
4. The documentary also touched on the issue of e-waste "recycling" taking place in the Global South. How do you think that this relationship upholds neo-

colonialism (neo-colonialism just means "new colonialism")?

5. It's clear from this documentary that electronics supply chains are deliberately going unchecked - both by brands and governments. How can we stand in solidarity with electronics workers around the world to put a stop to this?

6. The documentary also touched on the issue of mining - as many of the raw materials used in electronic goods are mined in unethical and environmentally damaging ways. Mining companies and fossil fuel companies form part of what is known as the "extractivist industry", because they utilise unsustainable extraction of the world's resources to make a profit. Current capitalist thought seems to indicate that we can invent our way out of the climate crisis, using ever-more efficient technology. How does the issue of mining suggest that this might not be possible?

7. The "extractivist economic model" is a term used to describe economies which ultimately rely on coal, oil, gas or other raw earth materials to create wealth (e.g. most of the world's major economies today). Banks play a major role in supporting this model, by financing extractivist industries. How can we challenge big banks to rethink their investments, and turn the tide on climate change and megamining?

8. Just like fossil fuel projects, many mining projects take place on indigenous lands against the will of the indigenous peoples. How can we ensure that we take leadership from those on the front lines (e.g. indigenous peoples and electronics workers) and centre their voices when we campaign for social justice?

Further reading:

- No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies (1999), Naomi Klein (this is quite a chunky book!)
- Electronics Watch regional reports (http://electronicswatch.org/en/monitoring-reports_2542963), the documentary focusses mainly on China and the USA - find out how the electronics industry is impacting workers in other parts of the world
- Supporting Task Team of Samsung Tower Protest (<https://www.facebook.com/KimAgainstSamsung/>) - YongHee Kim, a former Samsung worker who was fired and harassed for trying to start a union, has been occupying a CCTV tower in Seoul, South Korea, for over 200 days. Keep up to date with the struggle by following them on Facebook