

**STUDY GUIDE 1: PREAMBLE with Paul Davis**



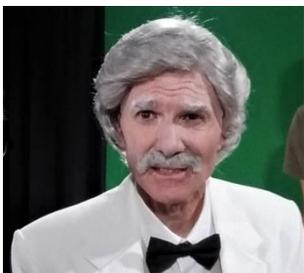
In this segment, Paul Davis explains why he made the series, explains what happened when Ronald Reagan vetoed the renewal of “The Fairness Doctrine” in 1987, and introduces his four-part video series “Surviving the 21st Century” where Mr. Davis plays Mark Twain.

**Questions for the viewer:**

- 1) How did repealing the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 lead to and create the opportunity for nation-wide biased reporting, often on the side of political parties, often called “Fake News” to dominate newscasts in America?
- 2) Why is a problem for news stations to be owned by three world-wide media creation corporations instead of locally owned broadcast stations? Or is it?
- 3) Where can you go to today to find honest reporting of national news? Is there a source outside the USA?
- 4) Where can you go today to find honest reporting of local news?
- 5) Why would some people say that the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) reports more accurate USA news than any station in the United States? Could it have anything to do with the fact that they have no financial interests in the USA?
- 6) Why did Mr. Davis and all local production staff get fired at KTVU-TV in Oakland California in 1994, within one year of FOX-TV buying that locally owned station?
- 7) How does FOX running over 30 stations out of KTVU’s Oakland building change how those stations present local information? How does it affect jobs and salaries for broadcast workers?
- 8) How does FOX NEWS being part of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox a movie-making/TV conglomerate effect on how they might approach news reporting?
- 9) What can be done by local vloggers and local news websites to bring back local news? What can you do?

**DEBATE SUGGESTIONS for Paul Davis’s Preamble to “Mark Twain: Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”:**

- 1) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. Honest National News is accurate on all TV networks in America (show examples and proof)
  - b. Honest National News does not exist on any TV networks in America (show examples and proof)
- 2) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. Student newspapers and vlogs should be allowed to report on current affairs and elections.
  - b. Student newspapers and vlogs have no reason to report on current affairs or elections.
- 3) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. American media today is controlled by the top 1% and their biased the newscasts promotes civic unrest.
  - b. America’s newscasts are fair and balanced and do not promote civic unrest or racial tensions.



**STUDY GUIDE 2:** PART I Suggestions 1-3

Part I: Paul Davis as Mark Twain makes his first three suggestions:

- 1) Start your own video news website.
- 2) Replace “Common Core” in public schools.
- 3) Stop sending State School Money to the Feds.

**Questions for the viewer:**

- 1) Does your school have a news student run website or school newspaper? If not, why not?
- 2) If you do have a school website or newspaper what are the student written video and articles about?
- 3) Are students allowed to write articles or post videos about current events outside of school? Why or why not?
- 4) What is website or internet “steering” and how does it help or impede your access to information?
- 5) Biden’s administration is trying to bring back the FCC Fairness Doctrine. How will that hurt or help the bottom 99% of American’s lives? Will it bring back “real news”? Tell why or why not.
- 6) Why did the Federal Government under the direction of George Bush and the elite top 1% put “No Child Left Behind” into the Homeland Security Act after the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack? Why did they want control of public schools and why did they take 25% of the money states spend on public schools? Why did the State Officials agree?
- 7) Is public school performance better today than in 2001? Find the facts. What part does “Standardized Testing” play in improving or hindering learning in your classrooms? Is studying to pass a test real learning?
- 8) What did the fictional Twain mean when he said, “officials in Washington DC have already put the nails in your coffins here” so “you all will need to work together to push those nails back out and break out of those coffins”?
- 9) If you read a book by Mark Twain in class, is it more helpful for you to dissect the structure or writing style or Twain or to share with your classmates how it relates to today’s world and what it meant to you? Why?
- 10) If a character in a Mark Twain books uses the word “nigger” as Twain illustrates what really happened during the time and the true setting of his book, should the word “nigger” today be replaced or removed from the story? Why or why not? What happens to the factual representation of the actual events as they occurred and were observed by Twain over 150 years ago when censors remove words that today are not acceptable?
- 11) Does Common Core design in your classes allow you to share your revelations, or does it program you to mostly dissect what you read instead of absorbing the intended message of the author? Why does Paul Davis’ fictional Twain *despise common core*?
- 12) How do you feel about every student learning the same thing the same way in every class? Is that even possible? Is that what Common Core is? Or is it not? Tell why and how.

13) Watch the episode of Patriot Act on the Death of the News Industry and factually explain why it does or does not matter.

**DEBATE SUGGESTIONS** for “Mark Twain: Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Part I”

- 1) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. Today, American public schools are performing better academically and in terms of preparing students for technical jobs like plumbers and electricians than they did in 2000. Show factual proof.
  - b. Today, American public schools are not performing better academically and are not preparing “non-college bound” students for technical jobs as well as they did in 2000. Show factual proof.
  
- 2) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. In 2001, the real reason the top 1% wanted the federal government to take 25% of the local public school was to improve the quality of education for the bottom 99% and improve our schools. Present proof of how well it is working: (Show at least 10 facts)
  - b. The real reason the top 1% wanted the federal government to take 25% of the local public school was to bankrupt public schools and replace them with vouchers and charter schools some of which has happened. (Show at least 10 facts)
  
- 3) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - c. Here are ten ways Common Core improves learning...
  - d. Here are ten ways “Common Core” does not work...
  
- 4) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. Bleeping out swear words during a newscast protects children and improves the newscast.
  - b. Bleeping out swear words during a newscast should not be needed if the unbiased newscaster is simply reporting a newsworthy factual event.



**STUDY GUIDE 3:** PART II Suggestions 4-6

**Part I:** Paul Davis as Mark Twain makes suggestions 4-6:

- 4) Earth will go on fine without humans.
- 5) No New Nukes are Good Nukes.
- 6) Get Real with Real Farms and Real Food.

**Questions for the viewer:**

- 1) If there is a multi-nation nuclear exchange like in the NetFlix film “The Midnight Sky” – how long will it take for all the humans and animals to die from radiation exposure? What will their last days be like? Most important, what truly will happen to any humans that make it safely underground deep enough to avoid the radiation (if that is possible)? Will any animal be able to survive the 55,000 underground until the earth’s air, water and soil are no longer radioactive? And will there be any animals or plants to eat after the radiation subsides? Research your answer on-line and find credible data to answer this question.
- 2) How long will it take before any life on earth returns after a multi-national nuclear exchange occurs. Again, go on-line and find reputable information and share your answer with the class.
- 3) How many bottled waters and disposable food containers do you use each week?
- 4) How much money and plastic bottles could you save by using a water filter on your kitchen sink and using reusable water bottles?
- 5) What are the pros and cons both environmentally and economically to bringing your own lunch to school?

<b>Cost of Purchased School Lunch:</b>	
- Pizza Slice	\$ 2.25
- Juice in a box	\$ 1.25
- Fruit Cocktail Cup	\$ 1.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
Cost per 180 day year:	<b>\$900.00</b>

<b>Cost of Home-Made Lunch:</b>	
- Homemade sandwich (Veggie or Protein)	\$ .75
- Juice in reusable bottle	\$ .35
- Apple & grapes	\$ .80
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 1.90</b>
Cost per 180 day year:	<b>\$ 342.00</b>

**540 plastic containers wasted each year.**

**One reusable lunch box, sandwich container, & Juice bottle.**

- 6) Which saves the environment more: Reusing and repairing things you already own? Or, recycling and replacing items? Why?
- 7) Environmental Activist Greta Thunberg will not fly in jet liners because most countries in the world believe the single biggest contributor to global warming is the unfiltered diesel fuel from the 48,000 jet liners that crossover our globe at 35,000 feet **everyday!** When all jet liners were grounded for four days after the 9-11-2001 terrorist attack in the USA, the ozone at the polar regions returned almost to normal – in just four days. Why do you think American media and the top 1% have hidden this information for twenty years? Do the research and show the facts.
- 8) How many ways can working from home can save the environment and make for a happier life for the bottom 99%? (Hint – a two-hour commute both produces carbon emissions and gives the driver two less hours of “free time” to relax or sleep each day.) How does working at home benefit both the employee and the employer?

- 9) Which is the most environmentally sound form of personal vehicle: 1) The Electric Car. 2) The hybrid-electric 3) A gas engine car. 4) The hydrogen car. Show facts and be sure to include the power and toxins produced in the creation and disposal of any batteries needed for the car. Which vehicle is second best? Show data and facts.
- 10) Paul Davis, the producer, writer and actor playing Twain produced videos for Pacific Gas and Electric when the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant was delayed going online because x-ray scans of 40 of the welds for the pipes that transferred radio active water for the reaction part of the plant were defective, cracked and unsafe. Instead of fixing the welds, PG&E tried to copy x-rays of good welds and falsified the records, relabeling them as “good welds” and destroying the xrays of the bad welds. An employee turned them into the Public Utilities Commission and PG&E was given a small fine. The production delays cost the citizens of California billions of dollars before the plant ever went online. It is just 30 years later – that plant has been shut down and will never be used again. The ocean floor for hundreds of miles around the site will never return to normal. It will cost billions of dollars to decommission the plant and safely move the radioactive materials to storage somewhere away from anything living. It will be 55,000 years until the radioactive elements are no longer radioactive.

The only time profits were made was during the construction of “Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant” was during construction and the only people who made that profit was the investors selling the construction project who have long since taken their profits with them and dissolved the corporation they formed – removing them from any chance of ever being held liable for any of the cost over runs and loss of life caused by the radioactive now closed monolith that stands empty on the ocean’s edge in California.

Go on-line and see if you can find any reason why making Diablo Canyon or starting any other nuclear power plant today would be good idea?

- 11) Looking at the Diablo Canyon story can you give any good reasons why making new nuclear bombs today would be a good idea? Is there any similarity in “the only time profits are made in the building of a nuclear power plant are while it is being built and only for the corporation building it which will walk away with the profits and dissolve the corporation the moment the plant is built” to the corporations selling and making nuclear bombs?
- 12) From suggestion number six “Rebuild a 300 Acre Locally Owned Farming System” compare and contrast: 1) Which creates more jobs 300-acre farms or corporate owned mega-farms? 2) Which uses more pesticides, 300 acre farms or corporate owned mega-farms? 3) Which farm owner is going to be more concerned about local jobs and the safety of their farming practices, a locally owned farmer, or an off-shore board-of-directors looking for profits that lives thousands of miles from the farms they own?
- 13) With three other students, come up with a business plan for your 300-acre farm. Include where you will house workers, what you will pay the workers, what equipment you will need, what supplies, what crops you plan to grow, how you will get the crops to market. This is a two-week assignment that also includes your profit-and-loss forecast. See if you can find working 300-acre farm business models on-line or contact an actual 300-acre farmer.

### **DEBATE SUGGESTIONS** for “Mark Twain: Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Part I”

- 1) Take one of these two debate positions:
- Nuclear Power Plants are America’s Future.
  - Nuclear Power Plants are a loss for everyone from the day the plans are drawn.  
Use facts and historical data.
- 2) Take one of these two debate positions:

- a. Jet Liners are the most efficient form of travel and best for the environment.
- b. Train Travel is the most efficient form of travel and best for the environment.  
Used facts and historical data.

3) Take one of these two debate positions:

- a. Fruit and vegetables mass produced on mega-farms is the best way to go all the way around.
- b. Fruit and vegetables grown on organic 300-acre farms is the best way to go all the way around.  
Use facts and historical data.

[yathink.org](http://yathink.org) presents “Paul Davis as Mark Twain – Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”



**STUDY GUIDE 4:** PART III Suggestions 7-9

Part I: Paul Davis as Mark Twain makes suggestions 7-9:

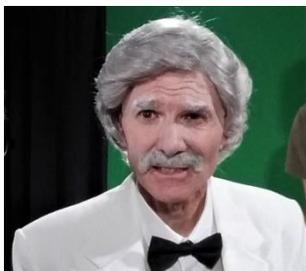
- 7) When the People Lead the Leaders will Follow.
- 8) You are all actually the same color.
- 9) Start your Personal Career in Animal Husbandry or Meat Substitute Cloning.

**Questions for the viewer:**

- 1) Go on-line and find out how to contact your Mayor, Governor, State Representatives and State Senators. Send each an email addressing one issue that concerns you and share what you send and the email you get back with your class.
- 2) What does “When the people LEAD the leaders will follow” truly mean? Name five ways any person in the bottom 99% can lead the leaders using actions they can take without any protesting.
- 3) Why did the top 1% fund “Black Lives Matter” billboards in mostly poor black neighborhoods in both the 2016 and 2020 elections? Why didn’t they put up those billboards in their mostly “white” neighborhoods instead? How did those billboards probably affect the people near them?
- 4) See if you can contact a small chicken, goat, pig or cattle ranch that has less than 1,000 animals. If you can’t find one, contact a Future Farmers of America or 4H Club and see how the small rancher differs from the companies that stack and pack the animals in factory-like-settings. Share your findings with your class.
- 5) Do some research on-line on meat-cloning. How does it work? See if you can visit an actual cloning lab or research center. Share your findings with your class.
- 6) Visit a goat ranch for a day and shadow the ranch hands. Do the same at a pig-farm or cattle ranch. Then contrast and compare how the two handle their animals and share the information with your class.
- 7) What can you and your family do to help ensure that the farm animals bred to produce the meat products you buy are treated well and slaughtered in a humane way?
- 8) Do you think cloning meat will help and improve animal treatment and reduce world hunger? If so how?

**DEBATE SUGGESTIONS** for “Mark Twain: Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Part III”

- 1) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. The way livestock is raised in America today is state of the art and working fine. (Give evidence.)
  - b. Here is what we need to change and improve in the way we raise livestock in America. (Give evidence.)
  
- 2) Take one of the two debate positions:
  - a. The top 1% promote racial bias in the media to distract the bottom 99% from fixing America. Here are five ways they do it:
  - b. The top 1% fund news networks and put-up billboards in poor communities to improve race relations within the different cultures of the bottom 99%. Here’s five specific ways:
  
- 3) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. Commercial cloning of meat and protein products for humans is doable now and totally safe.
  - b. Commercial cloning of meat and protein products for humans is dangerous and years down the road.



**STUDY GUIDE 5:** PART IV Suggestions 10-12

Part IV: Paul Davis as Mark Twain makes suggestions 10-12:

- 10) Just Stop. Stop creating so many humans for a while.
- 11) Put Healthcare of the people before profits.
- 12) Tweet carefully, tweet kindly, or don't tweet at all!

**Questions for the viewer:**

- 1) Team up with three other students.
  - a. Each of you write down the three reasons you think the earth is so overpopulated. Share the reasons.
  - b. Then go on-line and find out the facts.
    - i. One student finds the facts on the Americas.
    - ii. One student finds the facts on Russia and Europe.
    - iii. One student finds the facts on Asia and the Middle East.
    - iv. Share your findings with the class. Did every team find the same results? Why or why not?
- 2) Why do you think the Federal government allows Kaiser to write different insurance plans for single insurance customers than they do for corporations and companies? Find out why and share it with the class.
- 3) Find three countries that have successful socialized medicine. Find credible research on-line that compares those countries to American medical care. Determine why and how you feel either American medical care or one of the socialized medical care systems is best and share it with the class.
- 4) Do you think the bottom 99% will ever be able to control how medical care and medicine costs are determined? List at three reasons why you think they can or cannot.
- 5) Why is non-factual tweeting so dangerous? Or is it?
- 6)

**DEBATE SUGGESTIONS** for “Mark Twain: Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Part IV”

- 1) Take one of these two debate positions:
  - a. An abstinence pledge is the best way to control the earth's overpopulation problem.
  - b. Learning about birth control and making a careful decision about having children is the best way to control the earth's population.
  - c. Families without children should get tax credits to slow down overpopulation.
  - d. The government force any couple with a single child to have both partners get sterilized.
  - e. Student idea...
- 2) Take one of the two debate positions:
  - a. Medical service providers and the US Government Officials know what they are doing, and Healthcare in America is the best in the world. List at least 10 ways American Healthcare is superior to Socialized medicine – site actual examples.
  - b. Socialized Medical Care is the best – and here are three countries that prove it and three ways they provide better health coverage than America does.

3) Take one of these two debate positions:

- a. Tweeting and posting is protected by free speech and should not be regulated. List five reasons why.
- b. Tweeting and posting should be regulated and subject to fines and even criminal prosecution. Site examples and support your case with actual historical facts.