Contemporary America

scientific and technological advances
The application of science:

- Dramatic advances in technology have affected life in America in many significant areas.
- The American space program was a triumph of American technological prowess.
- Technology can make communication and information more accessible.
The Race To Space

Photo Credit: NASA
In the early 1960s, President John Kennedy pledged increased support for the American space program. The race to the moon continued through the 1960s.
Winning the Race:

U.S. astronaut John Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth.

In 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first person to step onto the moon’s surface.

He proclaimed, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."
Women in Space:

- Sally Ride was the first female astronaut for the United States.
- Christa McAuliffe was to be the first civilian in space, though her space shuttle mission was the first NASA catastrophe in decades.
Over the past three decades improved technology and media have brought about better access to communication and information for rural areas, businesses, and individual consumers. As a result, many more Americans have access to global information and viewpoints!
Examples of technological advances

- Cable TV/24-hour news (CNN)
- Personal computers
- Cellular phones
- World Wide Web

All of these improve our ability to communicate and access information!
Changes in work, school & health care

- **Telecommuting** – working from home via computers
- **Distance Learning** – taking classes on-line
- Growth in white collar (office) careers as service industries
- Breakthroughs in medical research, including the development of the vaccine for polio by **Dr. Jonas Salk**
A “down-side”?

Outsourcing and off-shoring
The vastness of the planet has shrunk due to technology—we now live in a “global community”.