**INSTRUCTIONS: DO NOT READ THIS ENTIRE PAPER. Read the headings only, and choose the most interesting topic to you. Then, read the entire section under the topic. You and your partner will have 10 minutes to discuss BOTH of your topics (it is OK if you both want to discuss the same topic).**

**1. In the news: Ebola and Travel**

**Read the quote below. Do you think a ban on travel to West African nations affected by Ebola is a good idea? Why or why not?**

A few officials, including House Speaker John A. Boehner, have suggested banning flights to and from [Ebola] affected countries, but the Obama administration has so far dismissed the idea, saying that a ban could slow the flow of aid there. Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has said that restricting travel to affected nations could drive traffic into other parts of Africa, making it even harder to contain and eliminate the virus. Several cruise lines have voluntarily altered their routes to avoid the West African coast.

From: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/17/travel/the-latest-on-ebola-and-travel.html?ref=travel

**2. Terrible Travel Tales**

**The New York Times includes a section for readers to share funny or crazy travel stories when something went wrong (see excerpt below). Do you have a story like this? Tell your partner.**

When you’re planning a trip, optimism reigns. Hotels look clean, maybe even charming. Sights look interesting, even exciting. The weather? Should be fine — or better! Then you actually go. And that’s when things can go maddeningly, even hilariously, wrong. We asked readers to share their misadventures:

“The diaper had leaked all over my business suit.”

“Men with machetes were waiting by a burning oil can.”

“Two more bus rides, still nowhere near my destination.”

From: http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/07/11/travel/travel-misadventures.html?ref=travel

**3. Uber and AirBnB – Legal Struggles**

**Recall our in-class discussion on Thursday about AirBnB (website to rent out your apartment or rent someone else’s apartment when traveling) and Uber (phone app that allows you to get a ride from an independent driver rather than a yellow taxi). As we discussed, these companies have had some legal problems. According to the New York Times, one problem is that these companies follow Internet business practices but operate in the real world, not online. Read the quote below. How can a company such as AirBnB or Uber balance the cost-saving benefits of automation with the need to ensure the safety of its users? Do you think businesses like these are a good idea?**

The third related [internet business] principle is to automate everything — whether selling ads, flagging inappropriate content or assessing employee performance. That notion also meets its limits in the real world. When Brian Chesky, the co-founder and chief executive of Airbnb, responded to complaints about vandalism, he emphasized that Airbnb had “algorithms that identify suspicious behavior.” That’s nice, yet algorithms, when people’s safety and well-being are involved, are not enough.

From: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/19/upshot/when-uber-lyft-and-airbnb-meet-the-real-world.html?ref=travel

**4. Traveling without Moving**

**Read the quote below. We have discussed what we can learn from travel. Do you think it is possible to learn the same kind of things by carefully looking at the world around you, without even leaving home? What do you think about when you walk around New York or ride the subway?**

The kind of traveling I do most, these days, is on the subway, going no farther than from Brooklyn to Manhattan, or, even worse, from one part of Brooklyn to another.

Usually the ride gives me a chance to rest: I read, look at the people around me…my mind tends to wander, and then I daydream, sometimes about what great or small things I may do at home, and sometimes about leaving home.

From: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/19/nyregion/story-excerpt-traveling-from-brooklyn.html? ref=travel

**5. Profit-Driven Adventure Travel – Is it Safe?**

**There have been many deaths recently in Nepal and other areas where people are doing “extreme adventure travel” (for example, climbing Mount Everest). Some people say the companies that run tours in dangerous places are too focused on profit, marketing their tours with claims that all people who purchase the trip, regardless of physical fitness, will complete it. Do you think this is an ethical business practice?**

As the death toll rose to 31 on Friday after this week’s intense snowstorm and avalanche — an aftereffect of the devastating cyclone — many involved in Nepal’s robust, expedition-centered tourism industry began to question why so many hikers were stranded on mountains in the midst of a weather event that appeared to have been predicted. Some tour operators blamed the government for not warning them; others suggested that the trekkers themselves and the companies that ran the tours were eager, perhaps overly so, to complete the trek.

From: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/18/world/asia/nepal-to-establish-weather-warning-system-after-hiking-disaster.html?ref=travel