

# Academic freedom

## Pre-task:

Consider current research topics that you are both familiar with and whose future results could easily be abused, if they fall into the wrong hands. E.g. stem cell research, nuclear physics. Decide on one topic and look up relevant key vocabulary.



Image 1

## Task 1:

Describe to your partner how an ill-intentioned person could abuse this research.

- What harmful effects could the abuse have?
- For what purpose could the results be abused?
- Why would anyone have an interest in abusing the results/data?
- Who could be a likely abuser?
- How could an unauthorised or ill-intentioned person get hold of sensitive data or results?
- Are there any special features that mark this field out as particularly sensitive?

These data could lead to the development of ... (noun).

The results could be utilised/used/applied to ... (infinitive).

These data could be of interest to ... (persons, corporations).

These results could aid ...

The most sensitive aspect of this development is ...

## Task 2:

Pro and contra. Discuss with your partner, whether the sensitive project you have chosen should be further researched despite being open to abuse, or whether such research should be abandoned or restricted. One of you should take the yes (pro), the other the no (contra) position.

Argument	Disagreeing
There can be no doubt that ...	I don't quite agree here.
It is a fact that ...	I cannot accept your view that ...
Everyone knows that ...	I cannot share this view.
indeed/actually ...	I doubt that ...
due to / due to the fact that ...	There are two sides of this question: ...
because / because of ...	on the other hand ...
as / since ...	however ...
owing to / owing to the fact that ...	Shouldn't we also consider ...
	I can see your point, but ...
	Yes, that may be true, but ...

### Follow-up activity:

Compare your universities: What kind of security-sensitive research do you know about at your institution? Which security measures are in place at your universities to safeguard sensitive research?

### Sources

Image 1 [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kernwaffenexplosion#/media/File:Hardtack\\_Umbrella\\_nuke.jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kernwaffenexplosion#/media/File:Hardtack_Umbrella_nuke.jpg)