

Questions about Jackson, "Federal Subsidy and the Suburban Dream" (1980):

1. What role did the U.S. government play in housing prior to the 1920s?
2. What did President Herbert Hoover think the government's role should be in housing? What did President Franklin Roosevelt think it should be?
3. What was HOLC and why was it necessary?
4. Who benefitted from the federal government's intervention into the housing market? Who did not benefit?

Questions about Katz, "Smart Growth" (2002):

1. What is the "new suburban reality" described in this paper?
2. What does the data about today's cities in this publication tell you about how cities have changed in the past seventy years? What are the differences between the American city of 1939 and today that you find the most significant and/or surprising?
3. What are the policies Katz identifies as the drivers of current growth patterns?
4. What are the problems Katz and others have identified with the ways cities and suburbs have grown in the U.S.?
5. How does the "smart growth" movement propose to fix these problems?
6. Do you agree with these conclusions? What about your hometowns (and/or your new hometown of Seattle) reflect the problems of the past seventy years of urban growth? What have been the benefits of these growth patterns? Who has benefitted?

Questions about the Blueprint for American Prosperity (2007)

1. According to this publication, why are metropolitan areas significant?
2. What does it consider to be the four critical areas for public investment?
3. What are the things that this document identifies as the major problems with today's metropolitan areas?
4. This document was prepared during the 2008 Presidential election, with the audience of a newly elected Presidential Administration and Congress in mind. What does it tell you about the role the federal government plays in shaping how cities grow? What does it tell you about the author's belief about the appropriate role of government?
5. How are the policy proposals of today trying to remedy the mistakes of the past?
6. What are three questions that you want to ask Bruce Katz about American cities?