Discussion Questions

- What was the political climate in the United States at the time of Hurricane Katrina that may have affected the disaster response?
  - Consider the impact of September 11th, 2001 and the restructuring of power within the political system.

- Who were the people most impacted by Hurricane Katrina and why?
  - Consider the presence of social and economic inequity, inequality, race and gender roles.

- Why did many people remain in New Orleans after there was an Evacuation Order?
  - Consider the options of those who stayed and their lack of economic security and stability.

- What lessons do you think were learned as a result of Hurricane Katrina?
  - Consider future policies in place and medical protocols, need for innovation, etc.

- What are some of the indirect factors that exacerbate the impact of a natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina?
  - Consider indirect drivers: demographic drivers such as fertility, mortality and migration; economic drivers such as economic growth or changes in consumption; sociopolitical and cultural drivers affecting who has access to what resource; scientific and technological drivers.

- What health impacts existed for people trapped in the city (direct and indirect)?
  - Consider the hazards posed by the flood waters, poor nutrition, lack of access to clean water, pollution, mental health, physical health, dealing with dead and decaying bodies, lack of access to medical care, disruption in routine medications for chronic conditions…