Who is the target audience for this book? What kinds of students of yours do you imagine would enjoy it? Why?

When Gibson describes a map of the United States in Chapter 3, he doesn't do it in terms of physical space, but in terms of data exchange and connectivity. Has the value of physical space decreased as Gibson may have been anticipating? If so, in what ways or if not, why not? What are the implications?

“Program a map to display frequency of data exchange, every thousand megabytes a single pixel on a very large screen. Manhattan and Atlanta burn solid white. Then they start to pulse, the rate of traffic threatening to overload your simulation. Your map is about to go nova. Cool it down. Up your scale. Each pixel a million megabytes. At a hundred million megabytes per second, you begin to make out certain blocks in midtown Manhattan, outlines of hundred-year-old industrial parks ringing the old core of Atlanta.” (p 57)

William Gibson describes cyberspace as “a consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators, in every nation, by children being taught mathematical concepts... A graphic representation of data abstracted from banks of every computer in the human system. Unthinkable complexity. Lines of light ranged in the nonspace of the mind, clusters and constellations of data.” (p 67) In what ways does it capture parts of today's reality? In what ways is it exaggerated? Is the portrayal of cyberspace generally positive or negative? What aspects are good, which are bad?

One of the recurring themes in many of Gibson's novels is growing detachment from reality due to technology. Is this something we already suffer from today? A risk for the future? What are the dangers if this happens? Can we encourage use of technology in classrooms and in general without sacrificing parts of the way we experience the world around us?

Technologists must be very aware of ethics and often need to create new codes for the contexts enabled by new technologies. Sometimes there is a very fine line between error and malicious action so policing behavior is difficult – as it is in Neuromancer. What kinds of unethical behavior occurs in the book? Do they have analogs with present technologies? Do you ever talk to your students about ethics on the Internet or using other technologies?

What technologies did Gibson correctly anticipate? Are their ramifications in line with what he describes? Which ones don't exist – why not?

Gibson has said: “I sometimes get the feeling that technical people who like my work miss several layers of irony.” What might he mean by that?