What is cohabitation?

* Two people who are romantically involved choose to live together without making the formal commitment of marriage.
* Cohabiting couples are typically “mature” couples who are emotionally and sexually intimate. Not simply “roommates.”
* Cohabitation can pertain to either heterosexual or same sex couples..
Brainstorm...

* Think, pair, share
* Get out a sheet of paper and respond...
  * Why do people cohabitate?
  * What are positives/negatives of cohabitation?
  * How is cohabitation different than marriage?
* Share your thoughts with your table partner. Be ready to share one idea with the class
Test Compatibility of the Relationship

* Many couples cohabitate to find out if they are compatible.
* View living together as a way to determine whether they can agree to a longer-term marital commitment.
* Gives the couple an opportunity to see how they would adjust to each other's habits and living patterns on a more intensive basis.
* Gives each party the option to end the relationship without the many legal complications involved in divorce.
Spend More Time Together

* Many couples move in together in an effort to spend more time together.
* Working separate jobs, living in different locations and having different daily schedules/routines can leave little time to be together.
* Allows the convenience of more time to weave their routines and interests and assess the relationship.
Save Money

* Another strong incentive for some couples to live together is to save money.
* See moving in together as a way to save on rent, food and other living expenses.
Common Reasons

Choice

* Many individuals today see marriage as “a piece of paper.”
* Certain people believe that their relationship can be exactly the same as a marriage, without going through the religious and/or legal process of marriage.
The number of couples who choose to live together prior to marriage has been steadily increasing. In 1960, when it was officially illegal in the U.S. to cohabitate, there were an estimated 450,000 couples living together. By 2011, that number had increased to 7.5 million. A recent study estimated that 48% of women choose to live with their male partner. This is up from 43% in 2002 and 34% in 1995. Among people who are currently married, approximately two-thirds say they lived together before making a marriage commitment.
The class will be split in two
  * For cohabitation
  * Against cohabitation

It is your job to find information related to YOUR SIDE of the issue.
  * Research
  * Print articles
  * Look at the opposing view points