*In April 2013, in the lead-up to the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond spoke at Carnegie Council in favor of Scottish independence, arguing that an independent Scotland would be a good place for business and investment.*

*This transcript has been modified for the classroom.*
**Why should Scots vote in favor of independence?**

“Those who argue against Scottish independence sometimes frame the argument in terms of perceived risk…The real economic risks for Scotland, I would submit, lie in our constitutional position*—*the risk of oil revenues continuing to be used exclusively for common expenditure rather than providing long-term economic security; the risk of inequality rising further, as it has done at the UK level over each of the last 35 years; the risk of taxation and welfare policies being designed in London as opposed to designed for Scottish circumstances.

Independence, I would submit, replaces these risks with a certainty. That certainty is that whatever challenges we wish to face, whatever opportunities we wish to seize, Scotland's future would be in Scottish hands. Independence allows us to make our own policies to match our own priorities and our own values…

Ladies and gentlemen, since Andrew Carnegie's day and his search for peace, the world has changed, changed fundamentally. Global markets are open to countries large and small. Threats to international security don't come, by and large, from territorial acquisition. They come from international terrorism or international criminality. In this environment, the disadvantages of smaller nations have disappeared. They are now benefiting from their natural economic strength, which is flexibility, speed of decision making, the ability to define clear national interests and objectives.”

1. What arguments did First Minister Salmond make in favor of Scottish independence?
2. How would somebody who wanted Scotland to stay a part of the UK counter First Minister Salmond’s positions?
3. Why would First Minister Salmond come to the United States to argue in favor of Scottish independence?