

Name: _____

Splitting Atoms: Forming Arguments from Evidence to Address Nuclear Energy Policy

Essential Question: *Should the federal funds be appropriated to support nuclear energy?*

Group Poster Instructions (60 minutes):

Once you have received your interest group description, please read and answer the first two questions below. In addition, record your answers at the top of your group poster.

What is your group's name? _____

Based on the description of your group, what position would you take on the issue of providing federal funds to subsidize nuclear energy?

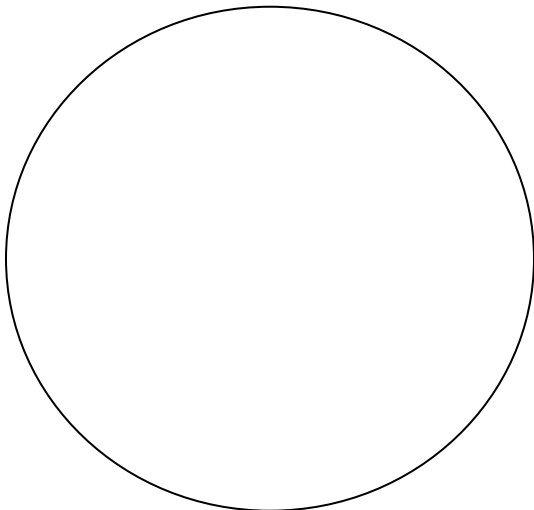
Once you have answered the first two questions, begin reading "Nuclear Energy: Balancing Benefits and Risks", and respond to the questions and prompts below.

What is one global environmental issue that may benefit from increasing the use of nuclear energy? Why?

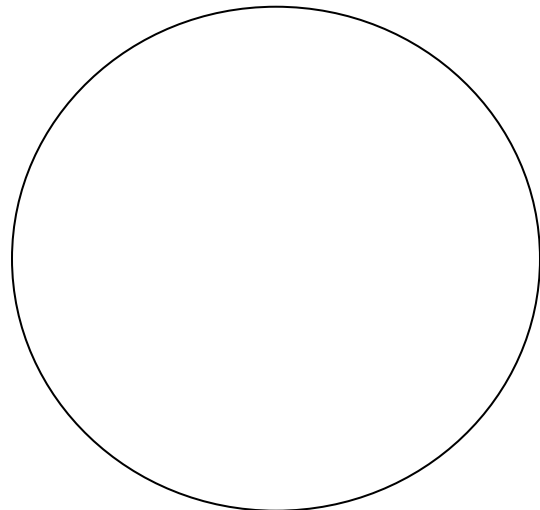
Can nuclear power provide greater energy security by reducing reliance on fossil fuels?

Use the circles below to create a chart that shows the portion of energy provided by nuclear power.

Total U.S. Energy Supply



Total U.S. Electricity Production



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Issues, Arguments and Evidence

In the table below, provide 4-5 arguments to support your group's answer to the Essential Question. Include evidence to support your argument. You must provide at least one argument for each issue. When you have finished, record the table on your poster.

| Issue | Argument | Evidence |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nuclear Energy & Energy Security | | |
| Nuclear Energy & Global Warming | | |
| Nuclear Energy & Safety Concerns | | |
| Nuclear Energy & Waste Concerns | | |
| | | |

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Poster Presentations, Counterclaims and Conclusions

During the poster presentations, one group will remain with the poster to present your response to the Essential Question, and share your group's arguments and evidence. While one of your group members remains with your poster to present, the remaining members of the group will visit a poster that has an opposing view to the Essential Question. You may visit more than one group but each group must represent an opposing view to your own.

Counterclaims

Use the table below to record at least two counterarguments to your group's arguments.

| Issue | Argument | Evidence |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Closing Argument

Reconvene with your group to prepare a closing argument in response to the Essential Question. Closing argument should include some evidence to support your group's view, a counterclaim from an opposing group, and a concluding remark. Concluding remarks may include a rebuttal to the counterclaim, a regulatory solution or a compromise.