



Nuclear Energy: What's Your Reaction?

Student Activity Guide

Name: _____ Date: _____

Introduction: The (fictitious) town of Solutionville is trying to figure out a way to replace their current coal-fired power plants with cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. At a recent town meeting, it was proposed that the town build a nuclear power plant to replace coal as the community's main source of energy for electricity.

Your Challenge: As a voting citizen of Solutionville, you must decide whether or not you support building a nuclear power plant to provide energy and electricity to homes and businesses in the community. This means carefully weighing the benefits and disadvantages of nuclear power.

1. **Conduct research** to learn more about nuclear power, and keep track of what you learn on this worksheet and/or in your notebook.
2. Make sure to write down the sources you get your information from, and be ready to **defend the sources as credible**.
3. Using the information you find, **fill in the Benefits and Drawbacks Chart** on page 3. Be prepared to defend the information on your chart with evidence from your sources.
4. **Analyze** your findings, then find a partner and compare notes.
5. **Decide** whether or not you are in favor of or opposed to nuclear energy.
 - *What information did you find that was most helpful for you in making your decision?*
 - *What criteria did you use to identify whether a source was credible or not?*
 - *What is 'evidence,' and what makes good evidence?*
 - *Do you have any questions or concerns about nuclear energy that you were unable to find answers to?*
 - *Did your notes and views match those of the partner you compared notes with? Did you learn anything new from your partner that influenced your decision?*





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Research notes, doodles, and diagrams

A large rectangular area defined by a dotted orange border, intended for students to write research notes, draw doodles, or create diagrams.





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Benefits of Nuclear Energy

Drawbacks of Nuclear Energy

