

Teacher Directions for Parts 1 and 2

Part 1 (50 minutes)

Students should receive the sources, directions, questions, report assignment, and any other material related to the task. They should receive the constructed-response questions in Part 1 and the report assignment in Part 2.

1. Initiate the online testing session.
2. Pass out the note-taking guide, reminding the students that its use is optional and unscored.
3. Alert the students when there are 25 minutes remaining in Part 1.
4. Alert the students when there are 5 minutes remaining in Part 1.
5. Have students write their names on any notes. Collect all student notes.
6. Close the testing session.

Stretch Break

Part 2 (70 minutes)

1. Initiate the testing Part 2.
2. Allow students to access the sources, their notes, and their answers to the constructed-response questions presented in Part 1. They will not be allowed to change their answers.
3. Once 15 minutes have elapsed, suggest students begin writing the report.
4. Alert the students when 30 minutes remain.
5. Alert students when 15 minutes remain and suggest they begin revising their reports.
6. Close the testing session.

Student Directions for Parts 1 and 2

Part 1 (50 minutes)

Your task

You will conduct some research on the pros and cons of nuclear power and then write a report arguing your opinion on the use of nuclear power for generating electricity.

Steps to follow

In order to plan and compose your report, you will do all of the following:

1. Review and evaluate the results of an Internet search on the pros and cons of your topic.
2. Make notes about the information from the sources.

3. Answer two questions about the sources.

Directions for beginning

You are chief-of-staff for your local congresswoman in the U.S. House of Representatives. She has called you into her office to outline an urgent project.

“I have received advance notice,” she says as you sit down, “that a power company is proposing to build a nuclear plant in the southeastern corner of our state. The plan will be announced to the public tomorrow morning, and citizens and journalists will want to know what my position is on this controversial issue. To be honest, I am not sure how I feel about it. We currently don’t have any nuclear power plants in this state, so I haven’t taken time to consider the issue deeply.”

“I need you,” she continues, “to conduct a brief survey of the pros and cons of nuclear power. Summarize what you have learned and report back to me this afternoon.”

Back in your office, you enter “nuclear power pros and cons” into a Google search engine, and it returns what looks like a promising mix of articles, videos, and data charts. You must review and evaluate these sources and summarize their arguments—both pro and con—before reporting back to the congresswoman.

You have been provided with and are encouraged to use a note-taking guide that will help you gather and process your findings.

Research Questions

After you have reviewed the research sources, answer the questions below. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, they will help you think about the sources you have read and viewed, which should help you write your report. Answer the questions in the spaces provided below each question.

- From the sources you have reviewed, summarize 3 major arguments that support, and 3 major arguments that oppose, the use of nuclear power for generating electricity. For each of the arguments, cite at least one source that supports this fact or point of view.

Argument / Fact in Favor of Nuclear Power	Source Supporting This Argument
1.	
2.	
3.	
Argument / Fact in Opposition to Nuclear Power	Source Supporting This Argument
1.	
2.	
3.	

- Evaluate the credibility of the arguments and evidence presented by these sources. Which of the sources are more trustworthy and why? Which of the sources warrant some skepticism because of bias

or insufficient evidence?

Part 2 (70 minutes)

You will now have 70 minutes to review your notes and sources, plan, draft, and revise your report. You may use your notes and refer to the sources. You may also refer to the answers you wrote to the questions in Part 1, but you cannot change those answers. Now read your assignment and the information about how your report will be scored; then begin your work.

Your Assignment

Back in the congresswoman’s office, you start to hand her your notes on the pros and cons of nuclear energy, but she waves away your papers.

“Some emergency meetings have come up and I don’t have time to review your research notes,” she says. “Instead, go ahead and make a recommendation for our position on this nuclear power plant. **Should we support the building of this nuclear plant in our state, or should we oppose the power company’s plan?** Be sure that your recommendation acknowledges both sides of the issue so that people know that we have considered the issue carefully. I’ll review your report tonight and use it for the press conference tomorrow morning.”

Write an argumentative report that recommends the position that your congresswoman should take on the plan to build a nuclear power plant in your state. Support your claim with evidence from the Internet sources you have read and viewed. You do not need to use all the sources, only the ones that most effectively and credibly support your position and your consideration of the opposing point of view.

Report Scoring

Your report will be scored on the following criteria:

1. **Statement of purpose / focus and organization:** How well did you clearly state your claim on the topic, maintain your focus, and address the alternate and opposing claims? How well did your ideas logically flow from the introduction to conclusion using effective transitions? How well did you stay on topic throughout the report?
2. **Elaboration of evidence:** How well did you elaborate your arguments and discussion of counterarguments, citing evidence from your sources? How well did you effectively express ideas using precise language and vocabulary that were appropriate for the audience and purpose of your report?
3. **Conventions:** How well did you follow the rules of usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

Now begin work on your report. Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- plan your report
- write your report
- revise and edit for a final draft

Word-processing tools and spell check are available to you.

Type your response in the space provided. Write as much as you need to fulfill the requirements of the task; you are not limited by the size of the response area on the screen.

Note-Taking Guide

Research Source	Published by . . .	Arguments for Nuclear Power	Arguments against Nuclear Power	How reliable is the evidence from this source?

