

TOMORROW IS THE GREAT DEBATE - Nuclear Power

Today, I want you to do some research to find out more about the topic and decide where you stand.

You may not have ever considered nuclear power, or you may have thought about it a lot due to seeing things on the news and in movies and TV.

Today I want you to do some REAL research, not from news stations, about nuclear power.

You can use the books I've provided from the library or you can use the internet, but

ONLY SITES THAT END IN .edu, .org, or .gov are allowed

Suggested search terms: "pros and cons of nuclear power" "nuclear power explained" "nuclear power simplified" "what are the dangers of nuclear power" "how often do accidents happen in nuclear power plants" "what are the benefits of nuclear power" "do the benefits outweigh the dangers of nuclear power" "are nuclear power plants statistically safe" "is nuclear power safe"

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pg _____

What I discovered:

It doesn't depend on fossil fuels and isn't affected by fluctuating oil and gas prices. Coal and natural gas power plants emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which contributes to climate change.

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What I discovered:

Historically, mining and purifying uranium hasn't been a very clean process. Even transporting nuclear fuel to and from plants poses a contamination risk. And once the

fuel is spent, you can't just throw it in the city dump. It's still radioactive and potentially deadly.

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What I discovered:

As if this weren't bad enough, nuclear power plants produce a great deal of low-level radioactive waste in the form of radiated parts and equipment.

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What I discovered:

Over time, spent nuclear fuel decays to safe radioactive levels, but this process takes tens of thousands of years. Even low-level radioactive waste requires centuries to reach acceptable levels.

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What I discovered: According to the Nuclear Energy Institute, the power produced by the world's nuclear plants would normally produce 2 billion metric tons of CO₂ per year if they depended on fossil fuels. In fact, a properly functioning nuclear power plant actually releases less radioactivity into the atmosphere than a coal-fired power plant