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?

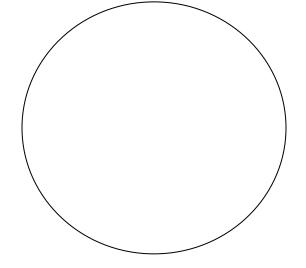
Once you have answered the first two questions, begin reading "Nuclear Energy: Balancing Benefits and Risks", and respond to the questions and prompts below.

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

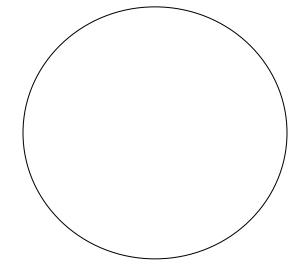
Can nuclear power provide greater energy security by reducing reliance on fossil fuels?

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



lame:	

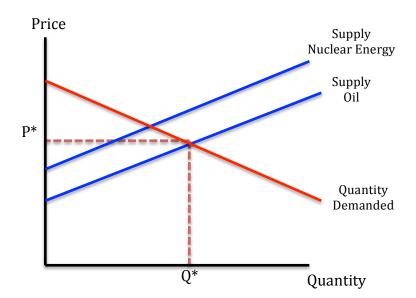
Does nuclear power an important role in one particular sector? Use quantitative examples from the reading to support your answer.

What are the three primary sources of U.S. energy production?

What are the two primary economic factors that affect the growth of nuclear-generated electricity?

How does nuclear power compare to other sources of energy?

Use the supply and demand curves below to show how a decrease in the supply of natural gas would affect the demand for nuclear energy.



How might a federal climate change policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions affect demand for nuclear energy? Name a specific policy, and describe the mechanism that would stimulate growth in nuclear-generated energy.

Name:	
Namai	
Name [*]	

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 &	<u> </u>	
Energy Security		
Nuclear Energy &		
Global Warming		
Nuclear Energy &		
Safety Concerns		
Nuclear Energy &		
Waste Concerns		

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.