AP Human Geography: Chapter 9 Energy Town Hall Meeting – Member Biographies

Period 3

Rita: My name is Rita Francis and I am 45 years old. I used to work in a power plant and I was born and raised in Pennsylvania. I am married to an environmentalist and I have two kids. I like to play basketball, swim, and read books. My father was a coal miner who died from lung cancer after working for 15 years. His lung cancer was caused by the poor environment around his job. My father was accidently exposed to a chemical used in the process of hydraulic fracturing that contained poisonous gasses, which left him ill for a week before being diagnosed with lung cancer. I was also diagnosed with skin cancer from a slight exposure to radioactivity waste in our power plant. We had a runaway reaction, which overheated the reactor and melted down the pipes, causing the leaking of radioactivity in the atmosphere. I was thankfully exposed to a small amount of the radioactivity which left me with a stage one skin cancer. Most of my co-workers sadly did not make it and I was one of the few people that survived the meltdown.

Stella: My name is Ellie Chevron and I am 37 and a half years old.  I am an employee of the Southern California Gas Company. I make $80,755 a year. My father worked there 20 years before me. My grandfather worked at a gas station. My family actually founded the Chevron Gas Stations. I got my Bachelor’s degree at USC and my Master’s degree at UCLA. I live in Anaheim, but I work in Los Angeles. I wake up early and drive to Downtown in my car, which beats waiting for a bus or train to take me there with a bunch of people. I'm pretty claustrophobic, so I hate being in buses filled with a lot of people. It would also take too long to wait. Efficiency is key. I believe that the most efficient energy source should be the one that the United States uses. Our energy source shouldn’t be too expensive. People should be able to have energy and not pay too much for it.

Sophia: My name is Rick Smith. I’m 55 years old and have lived in West Virginia all my life. My mom left my dad when I was 10 and I lost all connection with her. My father died from a lung disease when I was 16. I had to drop out of high school to get a job in order to provide for myself. I now live in a nearby low income city in West Virginia. I got into the coal industry when I was 20 because it was in need in workers. I am currently making $15 an hour. I don’t have enough savings for retirement. I think it’s important for us to keep all the jobs we already have.

Anahit: My name is Charles Sterling.  I am a past mayor of a town in Ohio, but now I have moved to California because of the conditions in the town. I graduated from Vermont Law School. I am 55 years old. I am worried because of the water and land pollution caused by hydraulic fracturing and the contamination of the water, having seen what happened in Ohio. The water pollution has affected my grandchildren, now they are in the hospital with rashes and are receiving antibiotics. My daughter still lives in the town and her family is suffering. Though I am retired, I am trying to make a living in California to bring my entire family here to stay safe.

Zare: I am Robert Mussolini. I graduated from Stanford Business School with a PhD in Business. I am a 33 year old venture capitalist living in Dallas, Texas, and I have made a fortune investing in the fossil fuel industry. I am happily married to my wife, with whom I have 6 beautiful children. We are currently living in a large house, where I own mineral rights on my land. My knowledge of business and the massive fortunes I have made have allowed me to buy a lot of land across the USA, where I own mineral rights and huge investment stakes in multiple companies in the energy business.

Narek: My name is Bobby Stalin, I am 41 years old, married and have 3 children all under the age of 10. I am a Harvard graduate, and have a Ph.D. in Biology and work as a college professor. I am a landowner living in Dallas, Texas without any mineral rights to my land. I care about the well-being of my family and our surroundings. I believe that I should be in charge of what happens to my land and my family, other people should not control what happens on my property!

Mystery Guest…

Period 5:

Carmelo: I am Andrew Perez, a graduate of Stanford University in 2013. I have a Masters in Biostatistics and Environmental Science and also have a Bachelors of sociology. I have been living in Northern California for almost my entire life, and I experienced many changes such as the world’s temperature and the fluctuating of water and electric bills. I try to conserve water by using it when it is necessary such as washing dishes and doing laundry. I also try to save electricity by turning off the lights when I go to sleep. I volunteer at the American Red Cross because there are numerous fires that happened in California such as Camp Fire. I commute to work with a TESLA and sometimes take an Uber or the bus. Currently, I am working with a major energy company and as a scientist, I need to make sure that the world can have enough and affordable power. We need to make sure that the citizens can live a healthy life, and can have enough money to pay for bills and taxes.

Lily: My name is Steve Johnson, and I am a 57 year old prison manager in rural California, where I live with my wife and our two children. We moved up here from over by Pendleton after all that business with the nuclear plant. Wouldn’t want to grow a second head like one of my father-in-law’s chickens did! Now, I worked as a guard for a while and now work as a warden at the local private prison. We’ve been getting tons more inmates lately, since the useless Supreme Court said that the state’s prisons were “overcrowded” and that it was “cruel and unusual punishment.” We’ve managed to cut down on energy costs, though even that might be taken away if they keep up this ridiculous “environmental” stuff. Why can’t we just stick with what’s time-tested, cheap, and doesn’t lead to another prison strike?

Ralph: My name is Jason Mendoza and I am a 27 year old vegan that lives in Seattle. I work as an editor at Vox Media. I graduated from the University of Washington and earned a BS in English. When I have the time I volunteer and donate at the National Audubon Society. I also volunteer at the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. Last year I protested against Keystone XL. I voted for Obama twice and for Bernie Sanders. I drive currently drive a 2019 Nissan LEAF, but sometimes take a bus or train. I support the carbon tax proposed by the Washington government. My grandparents lived by a drilling rig and they recently got a lot of health problems. I am very active at recycling and I have a compost.

Destiny: My name is Veronica Smith and I am a 21 year old Environmental Science major and a big activist. When i was younger a power plant opened up by my family home and it changed the way we lived because the environment was affected. I now live in NYC and go to school at NYU. I have one roommate a girl named Cherry Walterson from Colorado, we live in a condo complex. We both choose this complex because of the solar panels it has implanted at the top of the condos. They help reduce our energy footprint and saves us money. Our landlord designed the complex in a way that there are plants and gardens surrounding the condos and he supports cutting down on water, harmful fuels and gases around the complex. I am a super supporter on saving energy and limited resources when possible. I'm in an environmentalist club at my school which informs people of the many dangers of gas and oil leaks around the world.