**AP Human Geography: Chapter 9 Development – What Should US Energy Policy Be?**

Student Learning Objectives:

* Gather information from a variety of reliable sources, including text and video, on both renewable and non-renewable energy sources, sustainability and usage
* Analyze the arguments for the usage and impact of the various energy alternatives
* Identify and articulate the core values of different policy options
* Work cooperatively within a working group setting to create a persuasive and coherent presentation
* Explore, debate and evaluate multiple perspectives of US energy policy

The Town Hall Debate:

* Work as a team to research and create a 4-6 minute persuasive presentation that will convince “the town hall visitors” which option to vote for. Each presentation must include:
  + A 1-2 minute persuasive speech that promotes your option as THE BEST alternative,
  + 2-3 supporting visuals (full color posters or power-point slides to be displayed during the speech as supporting evidence and explained AFTER the speech
  + A live interview with ONE witness from a provided list
* Formulate, deliver and discuss relevant open-ended critical thinking questions
* Learn to respectfully debate a controversial issue

The Teams:

* Option 1: Increase the use of domestic fossil fuels – oil, coal & natural gas (including fracking)
* Option 2: Increase the use of nuclear & hydroelectric power facilities
* Option 3: Increase the use of renewable energy sources – wind, solar, biomass, & geothermal
* Town Hall Members: Actively listen to each presentation, ask relevant Qs and vote
  + Formulate 2-3 questions for each presentation group, based on your role / character
  + Potential roles include environmentalist, unemployed miner, property owner in a rural, river basin, coastal or adjacent area, research scientist, drilling rig operator, farmer / rancher, tech business developer, underemployed skilled laborer, real estate developer, construction company owner, etc.
* Questions to research for your assigned alternative:
  + How much energy is currently produced via this alternative?
  + What costs are involved in developing and / or increasing its use?
  + What are the human and environmental costs / benefits associated with it in both the long and short term? How can costs be minimized and benefits maximized?
* Potential Witnesses (for interview purposes):
  + Secretary of Energy or ex-Secretary of Energy
  + Current or past US presidents or presidential candidates with relevant ideas (time warp them in)
  + Leaders of foreign countries who exemplify strong energy policy, or that we do business with (import / export)
  + Persons harmed in some way by an alternative not assigned to you
  + Famous entrepreneurs in any of the businesses affiliated with the energy industry
  + US Senators or Congress members from key states or that have known ideas on the subject

Each group is responsible for any and all technology. If you use it, test it beforehand and make sure it works in the classroom. You are responsible to research and KNOW your assigned content area, as well as any content material presented to you, therefore do you due diligence and research multiple sides to the argument so that you can both support and refute the opinions being voiced.

AP Human Geography: Chapter 9 Development – What Should US Energy Policy Be? Organizer

Based on your role in this activity, log key information and its source about each option to be debated. Use this information to either support or refute an option OR (in the case of Town Hall Members, as a source of questions to ask the panelists.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Option | Key Information & Source | Potential Qs |
| 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |

After the information is presented and the debate completed, use the space below to clearly communicate in a 30 word or less GIST YOUR OPINION as to what US energy policy should be going forward and why:

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