

Countries should invest more in nuclear power



Nuclear energy is a marvel of the modern age. A single cup full of uranium – the material needed to fuel a nuclear power station – is enough to power a city for many hundreds of years. However, splitting the atom to create energy is a contentious issue. There is much fear surrounding the construction of these power stations, instigated by instances of disasters like that of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and most recently, Fukushima in Japan. This is a debate that will remain for a long time, as society moves away from fossil fuels to alternative sources, the need to discuss nuclear energy will grow.

Points For	Points Against
Solar and wind also have their costs, but nuclear is a long-term solution that can help society transition to better types of energy.	They are expensive. Fuel management, plant decommissioning and waste disposal are all costs which solar and wind do not have.
The cost of construction and decommissioning of nuclear power plants is often overestimated; the French and Swedish nuclear industries estimate decommissioning costs to be just 10 -15 % of the construction costs and budget this into the price charged for electricity	They are never on budget. Whenever a country builds a power station the initial cost is always far lower than the final cost. Governments and companies can never build them on time and on budget.
The scientific understanding and technology needed to generate nuclear power is the same as that needed to create nuclear weapons, and it is all too easy for rogue states to pretend they are only interested in peaceful uses while secretly pursuing military applications.	We should promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the skills and manpower from military weapons can be diverted into civilian uses.
Uranium supply is expected to last for over 200 years, which could be extended to 30,000 with modern technologies.	Uranium is virtually unlimited and can power civilisation for hundreds of years and perhaps more.



Useful language to use in formal debates

In general, you would need to come up with 4-5 main arguments to support your team's debating position. It's also important to remember to also anticipate the opposition's arguments to help you defend your team's point of view.

Building your Argument

Introducing your point: To begin with... First of all...

Connecting your points: Also... Furthermore... What's more...

Showing importance: More importantly... What's worse... Above all else...

Giving examples: For instance... For example...

Opinions, Preferences:

In my opinion..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., I honestly feel that, Without a doubt...,

Disagreeing:

Don't you think it would be better..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that..., It's a fact that..., According to ..., The reality of the situation is..., The numbers show that..., The fact is this:...,

Partially agreeing:

I agree with you to a point however..., I see where you are coming from but..., I see what you are saying but ...,

Delaying Strategies

I can't answer that directly..., I'll need time to think about that..., That's a very interesting question, because..., That's a difficult question to answer,

Asking someone to repeat

Pardon me? Pardon? Excuse me? Sorry? I'm sorry? I beg your pardon?

Holding the floor

Hold on..., Hold on a second..., Yes, I was about to mention that..., Well, I was about to come to that..., Sorry, I haven't finished yet, I haven't made my point yet ...

Expressing solutions and alternatives

The solution is to..., Then you will..., The best way to ... is ...,
To ..., you really have to ..., There are many choices....,

Supplementary materials



If needed, each member can be given a card indicating their position in the debate.

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YOU AGREE

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YOU DISAGREE

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