

## **Nuclear Topics Essay**

### **Instructions:**

In the next two class periods, we will watch videos regarding nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. You will then write an essay identifying and supporting a position regarding one of the following essay prompts. You may choose which prompt you want to address. Because you don't yet know which prompt you will write to, be sure to collect information from all of the movies. You will turn in the information you collected during the movies with your essay.

### **Essay requirements:**

- Document structure:
  - More than 1 page, less than 3 pages (not including works cited)
  - Double spaced
  - 12 point font
  - 1 inch margins
- Well organized:
  - Introductory paragraph with a thesis
  - One paragraph acknowledging and briefly addressing other potential viewpoints. This paragraph will then transition into why you still hold the viewpoint identified in your thesis
  - 3 organized paragraphs supporting your thesis
  - Conclusion - why does this matter?
- Works cited page
  - 3 sources in addition to the movies we watched in class
- Grammar:
  - Full sentences
  - Correct punctuation & spelling
- 10% extra credit available for taking your paper to the OHS writing center for revision. You must submit your writing center slip with stamp to received this credit.

**Due: November 6th (B Day Classes) / November 7th (A Day Classes)**

**Prompt Option 1:**

Any major scientific breakthrough requires hundreds of scientists and millions of dollars. While most of these projects are funded and managed by governments, the work is always done by scientists. What responsibilities do scientists have for the impact their research and discoveries have on people and our planet? Is it their responsibility to monitor the consequences of their discoveries or can they develop new technology without regard for its impact?

- If you believe they are responsible, how could they exercise this authority?
- If you believe they are not responsible, who should be and how could they exercise this authority?

**Prompt Option 2:**

During the Modern Marvels video, there was the sense that the US's use of nuclear weapons, although devastating, was justified and perhaps even right. Regardless, August 1945 changed forever the power dynamics of our world. Now that we've seen the impact that nuclear weapons has on communities and countries, when, if ever, might the use of nuclear weapons be justified?

Consider including how your understanding of August 1945 influences your position on post-WWII nuclear realities (ie. the Bay of Pigs, the Cold War, the war in Ukraine, etc.).

**Prompt option 3:**

Regardless of how we generate it, the unavoidable reality is we need to find ways to generate more electrical power. The question becomes what is the best way of accomplishing this. Our options for energy sources are fossil fuels, renewables, and nuclear power.

Given that we are currently a predominantly fossil fuel dominated energy economy, but we know that this is taking a tremendous toll on our environment, should sustaining and expanding nuclear power be a part of a plan that provides for our energy needs while protecting our planet?

Eyes of Nye: Nuclear Chemistry

Michael Shallenberger: Why I Changed My Mind About Nuclear Power

## Modern Marvels: The Manhattan Project