**P 6.1 SOCRATIC SEMINAR**

**“Should the Green New Deal include nuclear energy?”**

Nuclear energy has many supporters and many critics. Some argue that it is the most realistic way of meeting our energy needs without relying on fossil fuels. Others argue that it is more dangerous and potentially worse for the environment than burning fossil fuels.

The Green New Deal originally called for “ phasing out of all existing nuclear power stations and not building new ones” but newer versions of the proposal have removed all references to nuclear energy, suggesting that there is disagreement amongst progressive politicians in the US regarding the future of nuclear energy.

What do you think?

This assignment is worth 15 points in the project category.

1. **Inform yourself**

Spend about 20 - 30 minutes watching and making notes on some of the following videos:

First, watch these two: [nuclear power good](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVbLlnmxIbY) and [nuclear power bad](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEYbgyL5n1g)

Then choose a selection from the videos below.

Chernobyl - if you never saw this excellent show, these two clips give you a good taste of what you missed (it’s not too late)

[Chernobyl trailer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9APLXM9Ei8)

[Chernobyl enquiry](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xulAgMNK5Jk)

Here is one [TED talk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciStnd9Y2ak) and one [article](https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2019/03/21/green-new-deal-is-dead-without-nuclear-power/#7499b36769db) broadly supportive of nuclear energy use

Feel free to use any other sources, but if you do, you must cite them.

1. **Summarise the existing arguments (and add some of your own if you like)**

You must use your own words - if two students send identical or near identical work, they will be asked to redo it.

|  |
| --- |
| **In no less than 80 and no more than 100 words, argue that “any sustainable energy policy for America must include nuclear energy”. (5 points)** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **In no less than 80 and no more than 100 words, argue that “any sustainable energy policy for America must NOT include nuclear energy”. (5 points)** |
|  |

1. **Draw a conclusion**

|  |
| --- |
| **It’s 2040 and you are the energy secretary. Your president is undecided on nuclear energy and will follow your recommendation. In no less than 80 and no more than 100 words, tell her what you think. (5 points)**(Should new nuclear power stations be built? Should existing ones be kept open? What percentage of our energy supply should be nuclear? Will this advice change over time?) |
|  |

[Exit ticket](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0pQ51YPZBmN65cqrHe5w3yBreYNYgVS_kIngY88RHYcdPjw/viewform?usp=sf_link)