

Nuclear Power Argumentative Essay Outline

Thesis: The US government should build more nuclear power plants in the next 20 years.

- I. The energy shortage is becoming a severe problem.
 - A. Energy consumption in the US is astronomical.
 - B. The price of goods rises as the price of energy rises, causing inflation and harming the economy in the US.
- II. Another problem that troubles the US is pollution from traditional power plants.
 - A. Carbon dioxide causes the greenhouse effect.
 - B. Other toxic gases such as methane and nitrogen oxide damage not only the local environment but also nearby areas through air movement.
- III. Nuclear power is considered clean energy.
 - A. Nuclear power plants consume zero fossil fuel, so no carbon dioxide is produced during power generation.
 - B. No toxic gas is produced in nuclear power plants.
 - C. Nuclear power plants have a small carbon footprint.
- IV. Nuclear power has some unique advantages due to its physical properties.
 - A. Nuclear power plants have a relatively long service term compared with other types of power plants.
 - B. Unlike traditional energy sources, nuclear power is a renewable resource.
 - C. Nuclear power plants have strikingly high power efficiency.

- V. Nuclear power plants have fewer building restrictions.
 - A. They require less land capacity when compared with windmills.
 - B. Compared to hydroelectric stations, nuclear power plants are easier to build.
- VI. Building more nuclear power plants will be economical for the US in the next 20 years.
 - A. Although establishing a new nuclear power plant is expensive, running a nuclear power plant consumes less money.
 - B. The cost of dealing with environmental problems would be reduced if the US government gradually switched power income from traditional power plants to nuclear power plants.
 - C. Due to nuclear power plants' extremely high power density, the US government could meet its energy needs with fewer power plants.
 - D. Building and running additional nuclear power plants will create more jobs.
- VII. The public holds an unfavorable attitude toward nuclear power plants due to concerns about accidents.
 - A. A nuclear accident is a horrible disaster for the people and the government no matter how severe the accident is.
 - B. The Three Mile Island incident was a painful lesson for the US government, but fortunately, it was controlled in time.
 - C. The Chernobyl accident was the most serious nuclear accident in history, which seriously damaged the USSR.
 - D. The Fukushima disaster illustrates how government decisions can negatively affect a nuclear power plant accident.

- VIII. Some might say that building more nuclear power plants in the US is a waste of resources.
- A. Building new nuclear power plants will require a large budget.
 - B. Building more nuclear power plants might actually cause overcapacity in electric generation.
- IX. Even though there are concerns about safety and security, the US has already taken steps to address these issues. Nuclear power could contribute renewable and clean energy to the US public. In the upcoming 20 years, with so many unique advantages, it is evident that nuclear power has promising prospects.