



Coal-fired class debate

Two teams will be given one of the potential solutions to reducing coal fired power from the list below. One team of four will be the affirmative speakers and the other will be the negative speakers. There are specific rounds that alternate between affirmative and negative speakers. The rule for procedure of presentations is that the affirmative debaters speaks first, for eight minutes. Then the negative speakers present for eight minutes. Then each team can be cross-questioned by the audience at the end.

Groups are provided with one of the possible solutions to debate. They need to find supporting evidence to formulate convincing arguments. They can use health, employment, economy and environmental benefits as part of their arguments. You can print a research learning tool to help organise your ideas.

Some potential debating points about coal fired power stations are:

1. Have a carbon tax that allows alternative energy to compete with coal fired power stations and use the money from the tax to give everyone a tax reduction.
2. Have a carbon tax that allows alternative energy to compete with coal fired power stations and use the money from the tax to build solar farms, energy research, invest in energy efficiency and better public transport.
3. Have a carbon trading system where a fixed amount of carbon pollution can be purchased at market prices.
4. Ban any future building of new coal fired power stations. Very old coal fired power stations can be replaced with gas fired power stations, but for only 20 years.



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5. In ten years all coal fired power stations must be able to store their carbon dioxide emissions underground.



Resources

1. Mining resources:

Australian coal mining industry group - www.australiancoal.com.au

Rio Tinto - www.riotintocoalaustralia.com.au

Minerals Council of Australia - www.minerals.org.au

NSW Minerals Council - www.nswmin.com.au

Australian Mining - www.miningaustralia.com.au

2. Environmentalists:

Mineral Policy Institute - www.mpi.org.au

Climate Camp - www.climatecamp.org.au

Beyond Zero Emissions - www.beyondzeroemissions.org

Australian Conservation Foundation - www.acfonline.org.au

3. Local Indigenous Groups Resources:

Minerals Council of Australia - www.minerals.org.au

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria - www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous/

Mineral Policy Institute - www.mpi.org.au

Mining Aboriginal Lands -

<http://www.sbs.com.au/gold/story.php?storyid=51>

Indigenous attitudes to mining -

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/earth/stories/s944864.htm>

4. Government:

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism - www.ret.gov.au

Clean Coal - <http://risingtide.org.au/cleancoal>

Power cut for big polluter Hazelwood -

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/power-cut-forbig-polluter-hazelwood-20100709-1045o.html>

Rudd signs Kyoto ratification document -

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/12/03/2108345.htm>



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