

## Knowing Alternative Energies

**WebQuest Description:** This Webquest will allow students to investigate several renewable energy sources and determine what factors should be considered for an effective analysis.

**Grade Level:** College / Adult

**Curriculum:** Business / Economics

**Keywords:** Technology /Economics, Life Skills/Business / Careers, Science

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### Introduction

Congratulations! You are going to make a report about what you consider alternative energies and different types. You'll need to explain what factors you are including in your analysis, examples of current or future projects, and benefits and problems involved with developing this energy source for residential and / or commercial use. The world of renewable energy is fascinating. Feel free to include your thoughts and opinions, but be sure to back them up with research! All sources must be properly cited, and any assumptions you make should be clearly explained.

### Tasks

You will present your findings as a powerpoint presentation that will be uploaded to the discussion box provided in WebCT. Links to documents you have used or created should be included. You will be required to submit a visual ranking tool project for alternative energy sources, and your results and rationale should be clearly presented.

### Process

Here are some steps to help you complete your report:-  
You will be assigned groups of 4-5. Use the provided discussion box to begin getting acquainted right away.  
Go to <http://www.intel.com/education/visualranking/index.htm>.  
Login using the following information:  
Teacher ID: antoniocuestas@antoniocuestas.com  
Team Name & Password: Team A , password A, Team B, password B.  
Complete the Alternative Energy Sources project provided.  
Compare your results to other members of your team, as well as those of the other team. Decide which energy resource your team will be analyzing.  
Search the internet for resources that will help you with your report. Here are a few great sites to get you started:  
<http://www.antoniocuestas.com>  
<http://www.netpilot.ca/aes/>  
<http://www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/Programs/EP/index.cfm>  
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>  
Make sure that you have a minimum of 5 credible sources for this project, but choose only one to analyse deeply.  
Collaborate with your teammates to create a powerpoint presentation that is 15-20 slides in length. Include at least 1 data table, graph, or chart of your own design. Feel free to include other properly-cited data.  
Some topics you may want to include in your presentation include the following:  
What is involved in a good analysis?  
What are the short-term costs? Long-term?  
What are the risks and benefits for the energy source?  
Are there any working examples of this technology currently in use?  
Are there other considerations besides \$ and environmental reasons when determining a good value?  
Upload your powerpoint to the dropbox that is provided for each team by the due date.  
Attached is a short sample presentation to help get your creative juices flowing. Attachment #2 is a qualitative rubric your group should use to verify if they are staying on track.  
GOOD LUCK!

# Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Very Good 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Stated Objective or Performance	Energy source identified with minimal explanation.	Energy source identified, explained fairly well, and compared to 1 other source.	Energy source identified, thoroughly described, and compared to at least 2 other sources.	Energy source identified, thoroughly explained, and compared to at least 3 other sources.	%25
Stated Objective or Performance	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting a beginning level of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting development and movement toward mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting the highest level of performance.	%25
Stated Objective or Performance	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting a beginning level of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting development and movement toward mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting the highest level of performance.	%25
Stated Objective or Performance	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting a beginning level of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting development and movement toward mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting the highest level of performance.	%25
				Total Score	%100

# Conclusion

Thanks for your submission! You should have covered the following key points as a result of your work in this WebQuest: components of a analysis; long-term and short-term energy costs; future prospects for certain energy resources; areas that are already "going green"; Are renewable resource "better" than fossil fuels? Hopefully, you've developed a strong opinion one way or another about this. How will all this affect you from now on? As you look back on your experiences with this assignment, I hope that you realize how complex energy sustainability may be for our planet. Perhaps you will look a bit more closely at news stories or energy policies in the future. Maybe you will look more closely at an electric bill, or consider building your own windmill one day. Whatever the future holds for us in terms of energy technology, it is certain to be quite a ride!

# Teacher Page

You can also enter the webquest from my personal website: [www.antoniocestas.com](http://www.antoniocestas.com) I would like to thank the WEB SOURCES USED, especially: <http://zunal.com/webquest.php?user=3413> AND <http://www.nrel.gov/data/pix/> (all images) <http://www.netpilot.ca/aes/> <http://www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/Programs/EP/index.cfm> <http://zebu.uoregon.edu/2001/phys162.html> <http://www.nucleartourist.com/basics/why.htm> <http://www.eia.doe.gov/> [http://www.raeng.org.uk/news/publications/list/reports/Cost\\_Generation\\_Commentary.pdf](http://www.raeng.org.uk/news/publications/list/reports/Cost_Generation_Commentary.pdf) [www.zunal.com](http://www.zunal.com) provided the free template that made it possible to create this WebQuest. And SM teachers for their kind explanations & excl; & excl; & excl; & excl; THANKS!!!

## Standards

## Credits

## Other