

Student Directions for The Ethanol Project: A mock senate hearing

You will be given one of the roles listed below to research and develop. You devise a name and a biography of your character and write a position paper and give a short speech from the perspective of your character on the topic of developing ethanol as fuel. After the senate hearing, you will write your own position paper on the topic—in this paper you must use at least three quotes from the senate hearing: these are quotes from the characters, not your actual classmates.

Senate committee on Energy and Natural Resources: A hearing by the Senate subcommittee on energy receiving testimony on the appropriation of funds to develop ethanol as a fuel.

Senators attending: D-Florida, R-Wyoming, R- Illinois, D-Vermont

Testimony given by the following:

Agricultural businessman (corn farmer)

Cellulosic ethanol entrepreneur

Representative from the Green Party

Representative from Oxfam of America

Brazilian ethanol producer

Representative from the North American Hemp Council

Archer-Daniels-Midland executive

Economist

Fuel Cell developer

Agra Europe analyst

Solar energy chemist

Representative from the Nuclear Energy Institute

Big Three Auto executive

Alternative Energy vehicle designer (natural gas, electric, or hybrid)

You will be graded on the following aspects of this project:

- Preliminary Research Worksheet
- Biography and Position Paper of Character
- Oral Presentation before the Senate hearing
- Personal position paper

Preliminary Research

- 1) List five reasons to develop and increase the use of ethanol as fuel. (Use **your own** full sentences—preferably 2-3 sentences per reason and cite your sources.)
- 2) List five of the major drawbacks to the use of ethanol as fuel. (Again, be complete and cite your sources)
- 3) Choose **one country** in each of the following continents and describe in one paragraph how ethanol has been incorporated into the economy of that country and describe why fuel ethanol is a global issue. (Cite sources)
 - a) South America
 - b) Europe
 - c) Asia (including the Indian subcontinent)

Biography and Character Position Paper: See grading rubric

Speech: Your Senate hearing speech should summarize your biography and your character's position essay and should be 3-5 minutes long. You should not read your paper to the class. It is appropriate to use notecards, but you should be able to deliver your speech without much assistance from your cards. Please take notes as you will use your classmate's views in your personal position paper tomorrow. We do not have time for extended questions during the hearing.

Checklist:

- Introduction of character and description of the occupation of the character
- Position of character with regard to ethanol stated
- Position supported with evidence
- Delivery—eye contact, appropriate use of notes, conversational and direct language
- The speech is within the time constraints
- Creativity, enthusiasm will add to your grade

Personal Position Essay:

After the senate hearing, you will write your own personal position paper in class on whether the development of ethanol as a fuel is a good use of government money. You must use three pieces of information from the senate hearing in your position paper. You are encouraged to ask questions of each other during the start of this class period. I will be looking for a coherent argument and good writing.

Checklist:

- Your position on the use of ethanol as fuel is stated clearly.
- Your position is supported with at least three sources from the hearing in class. Write your classmate's role in the hearing in parentheses as your source. Example: Archer-Daniels-Midland executive or Oxfam representative
- Your writing is fluid, concise, and without grammatical or punctuation errors.