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Fighting for Fossil Fuel

Over the last several years, many people have tried to make lifestyle changes in order to “go green”. In most cases, this goal is achieved by burning less gas, using less electricity, recycling, etc. One common argument among those attempting to become more environmentally friendly is which type of fuel power best serves the purpose of everyday living. Most people argue that nuclear power is the smarter option because “nuclear power plants do not release the harmful emissions that coal-burning plants do” (Wouldstra 311). Contrary to popular belief, fossil fuel is safer, more economically feasible, and has more potential growth than nuclear power.

Although nuclear power plants do not release the same harmful emissions as coal-burning plants, they still produce radioactive waste, high risks of explosions, and the threat of terroristic sabotage. While nuclear power has many pros, they are often outweighed by the benefits of fossil fuel. Fossil fuel is safer because, unlike nuclear fuel, coal-burning does not produce radioactive waste. Fossil fuel is also remarkably less expensive than nuclear power. Since coal and oil can be conserved for extended periods until the resources can be used, the use of fossil fuels is much more economically feasible. Another advantage to using fossil fuels versus nuclear power is the fact that burning coal and oil has more potential advancement. It is estimated that the Earth’s supply of uranium, an essential element in the process of nuclear power, is to last only thirty to sixty years. A great advantage of using fossil fuels is the possibility to someday make the current methods used in drilling for and burning coal, oil and natural gas more environmentally friendly. This has been proven because “burning coal for power uses only one-third of its potential energy. (Wouldstra 311)

While fossil fuels can provoke many dangers, risks and are unrenewable, they are the best choice we currently have. The ultimate goal is obviously for society and scientists to come together to make renewable energy sources such as solar power and wind energy more accessible. But until this is possible, we must choose fossil fuel, the lesser of the two evils.

Works Cited

Wouldstra, Alyssa, “Nuclear Is Not the Answer.” *The College Writer: A Guide to Thinking, Writing, and Researching.* 5thed., edited by VanderMey et al., Cengage, 2015, page 311.