

Name _____

Date _____

Period:

Activity I: Collect one piece of evidence from each news source.

After Activity I: Should the government make the plant reduce its burning of coal? Why/ why not? [Circle]

YES

NO

Activity II:

Your Group: _____

Evidence: [Find 2-3 pieces of evidence per document]

Doc #1	
Doc #2	
Doc #3	
Doc #4	

Activity III: Summarize Major Points from other groups

Group	Evidence

After Activity III: Should the government make the plant reduce its burning of coal? Why/ why not? [Circle]

YES

NO

Closing Question:

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Group: Parents for Children’s Welfare

Description: A local nonprofit organization of parents whose only started goal is to promote the welfare of the community's children.

Documents/Evidence:

Doc #1: The Story of Gloria

Gloria is a ten year old girl diagnosed with Asthma who lives less than 2 miles away from the Ridgeway Coal Plant. Because of her illness, Gloria has inflamed lungs and often has difficulty breathing. Two months ago, Gloria was playing outside her home when she had an asthma attack.



Unfortunately, she did not have her inhaler [which would have stopped the attack] and no adults were immediately present. It took an extended length of time before one of Gloria’s friends found Gloria’s mother to inform her of the emergency. When her mother found her the attack had gone from bad to critical. Gloria was immediately rushed to the hospital. Gloria had severe lung damage from the attack and had to spend a month in the hospital recovering. Gloria almost died from the attack. Coal plants are often linked to causing and worsening asthma and asthma related

attacks.

Doc #2: Ridgeway Hospital Admittance Data

Year	Bronchitis Cases [Lung Inflammation]	Aggravated Asthma Attacks
2018	87	52
2019	89	60
2020	107	88



Doc #3: Ridgeway Schools Attendance Data

School Year	Absences for lung related sickness
2016-2017	535
2017-2018	635
2018-2019	658



Doc #4: Testimony of Doctor Stevens



“I have been licensed physician for 14 years, the last 3 years I have lived and worked in Ridgeway. I am a family doctor, so I see people of all ages from children to seniors. When I moved to Ridgeway, something that surprised me was the unusually high number of cases of respiratory infections and inflammations, especially among children. For my first few months in Ridgeway I thought this was odd, until I realized the proximity of the Ridgeway Coal Plant to the town. In my medical opinion, pollution from the Coal Plant is most likely contributing to the various lung ailments that are plaguing the people of Ridgeway. As I said before, I have never seen this many cases of lung conditions in a town this small.

Group: Ridgeway Chamber of Commerce

Description: The goal of the Chamber of Commerce is to promote business, trade, and jobs in the town of Ridgeway in order to insure a stable and healthy financial future for the town.

Documents/Evidence:

Doc #1: Top Five Employers In Ridgeway

Employer Name	Number of Employees	% of Total Workforce of Ridgeway
Ridgeway Coal Plant	3,502	23.4%
Wal-Mart	650	4.3%
Ridgeway Community College	528	3.5%
Target	399	2.6%
Home Depot	251	1.7%

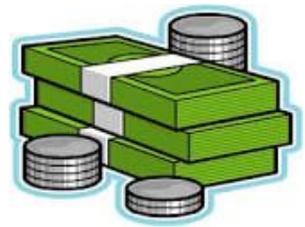
Doc #2: Poverty & Unemployment Rates In Ridgeway vs. the United States

United States

Under Poverty Line	15%
Unemployed	5%
Median Income for a Household	\$51,939

Ridgeway

Under Poverty Line	30%
Unemployed	11%
Median Income for a Household	\$42,125



Doc #3: Tax Revenue Report for Ridgeway Coal Plant

The following is a statement of tax revenue taken from Ridgeway Coal Plant and what that revenue is used for by the town of Ridgeway.

Police Department	Fire Department	Schools & Education	Parks and Recreation	Road & Building Maintenance	Ridgeway Library
\$175,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$75,000	\$165,000	\$25,000

Total tax revenue taken from Ridgeway Coal Plant: \$890,000

Doc #4: Story of Smithville

Smithville is a town that was very similar to Ridgeway in terms of population and demographics of citizens. Smithville also had one major employer for the town, an automobile factory that employed about 4,000 people. In 2010, the automobile factory shut down and those 4,000 people lost their jobs. Many reasons caused the shutdown such as a poor economy and competition from other companies. But one major reason was heavy government regulation which cut the factory's profits to unsustainable levels. The effect of the shutdown was devastating to Smithville. The town now is one of the poorest in the state. Alcoholism, depression, and crime rates have all spiked



since the shutdown. Hundreds of families have left which has caused numerous other businesses to close as well.

Group: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

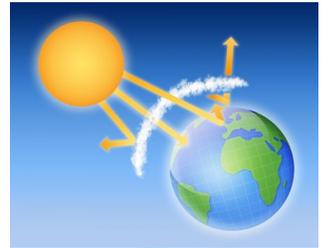
Description: Local representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, or the EPA. The purpose of the government agency is to promote the safeguard of America’s environment and natural resources.

Documents/Evidence:

Doc #1: Effects of Global Climate Change

Over the past 100 years, humans have increased carbon dioxide emissions, or CO₂, dramatically (mostly as a byproduct from burning fuel/coal/natural gas for energy). This CO₂ traps sunlight within Earth’s atmosphere causing the climate to warm up over time. This global warming has many negative effects, including:

1. Melting of the ice caps, which could lead to flooding of hundreds of millions of people's homes [Including major cities such as Miami and New York]
2. Increased natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes
3. Massive extinctions of plant and animal life
4. Massive food shortages and water shortages from droughts
5. Spread of diseases that thrive in warm weather



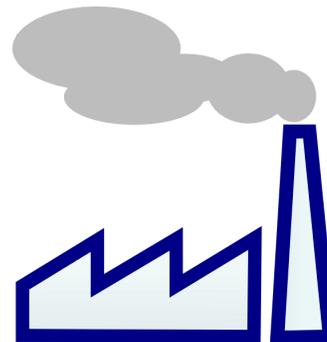
Doc #2: Carbon Emissions in the United States by Source:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Share of Total</u>
Coal	1,364 million tons	71%
Natural Gas	530 million tons	28%
Petroleum [Car Gasoline]	24 million tons	1%
Other	7 million tons	0.2%



Doc #3: Ridgeway Coal Plant Carbon Emissions By Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2017	18.4 million tons
2018	18.5 million tons
2019	19.1 million tons
2020	20.4 million tons



Doc #4: Ridgeway Coal Plant Environmental Impact Report

The Following is an estimation of negative environmental effects caused by the Ridgeway Coal Plant

Wildlife Deaths	Over 2,000 birds, fish, and small mammals,
Hazardous Chemicals Found In Water Supply	Arsenic, Chromium, Cobalt, Lead, Magnesium
Structures Damaged From Acid Rain	445 with minor damage, 37 with serious damage

Human Lives Shortened	750 from water and air contamination
2016 Human Medical Costs	\$1,750,000

Group: Ridgeway Coal Plant

Description: Members of the board of directors of the Ridgeway Coal Plant. Their goal is the continued success and economic profitability of the coal plant

Documents/Evidence:

Doc #1: Energy Production Needs Report

Ridgeway Coal Plant Energy Production:

At current capacity: 1400 megawatts per hour	If the regulation is passed: 1100 megawatts per hour
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If the regulation is passed reduction the production at Ridgeway Coal Plant, the following will lose power and will have to purchase electricity from other more expensive sources:

<p>2200 Residential Homes 45 Large Apartment Buildings 345 Small business 35 Large Businesses 40 Government Buildings</p>



Doc #2: Potential Cutbacks

If the regulation is passed, the following is all potential cutbacks that will need to be made to maintain the plant.



1. Let go at least 300 employees from the staff
2. Reduce the hours of at least 500 other employees
3. Reduce the pay of all employees by a range of 2%-8%
4. Reduce employee benefits packages including less vacation days and medical benefits
5. Stop production of a new coal-fire furnace that would have expanded the plant
6. Stop purchase of new equipment that would have increased safety and reduced work time

Doc #3: Letter from the CEO of Coal Industries



“The plant at Ridgeway is just barely making a profit margin. Recent new sources of energy in the area are providing too much competition. If the plant does any worse, we need to explore the option of closing down the plant in Ridgeway and put our resources in other areas. I would prefer not to take this option, but for the sake of the company, it is something that might have to unfortunately happen. One thing I can say for a fact is that a forced reduction of the plant’s production by the town council would not help our cause to maintain profitability.”

Doc #4: The Story of Luis Ortiz

“I have been working at the plant for about 30 odd years. It was my first job out of high school and I have been working here ever since. I work in the processing department. Basically my job is to inspect shipments of coal and separate pure and impure chunks for firing. This has been my job at the plant for the past 22 years. If I lost hours, my benefits or my job things would be rough. Times are hard already. My wife is a hemophiliac, and she needs to get monthly injections so her blood can clot in case of a cut. Luckily my insurance from the plant covers most of this, but it’s still a thousand bucks a month on our end. My son in turning 16 and wants to go to college. We have a little saved, but not enough for full tuition I don’t even know how I would go about getting another job if I lost this one. I’ve never done anything else, and the



next nearest plant is over 100 miles away. It's the same for a lot of folks. The plant is the heart of this town, without it, people will get hurt."

Description: You are members of the town council. You currently have limited knowledge of the issue [outside of some things you vaguely remember from the news].

Documents/Evidence:



LIVE

breakyourownnews.com

BREAKING NEWS

SMITHVILLE FACTORY CLOSES DOOR

16:16 OVER 4000 TO LOSE THEIR JOBS | "JAPAN UNDERBID AND KILLED US" SAYS CEO



RIDGEWAY SUN

Birds & Fish Found Dead Near Coal Plant. What Was the Cause?

Horris Center for the Performing Arts, 27579 Crossfield Drive in PHE, on Saturday, March 20 at 2 and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$38 for adults and \$19 for students for the evening performance and \$30 for adults and \$15 for students at the matinee performance. For reservations, call 544-0403.

Two years ago, U.S. Navy personnel and their families assigned to the Arangi Navy base, home of the U.S.S. Kittyhawk, were treated to a rare experience when Terry Fleming and his local Irish/American band, Innisfree, traveled to the base to entertain them on St. Patrick's Day. Fleming and the other five members of Innisfree were delighted and honored to be able to go to Japan and lift the spirits, if only for a few hours, of the Navy personnel and their families.

teacher and assistant director of the Orange County Symphony; and Mike Tilney, bass, a computer engineer. The band has been playing the length and breadth of California for the past 25 years. They have played at pubs, wakes, weddings, birthdays and on occasions where there was little chance for throwing a party. Fleming says it was by coincidence the band got the opportunity to travel to Japan. Another band was unable to travel at the last minute and so he and his band were offered the opportunity to entertain the locals for a few fun-filled hours. It turned out that it was just one of many establishments in the city. A special bond developed between the band members and these families and already exchange visits have occurred when the same families were on leave in the United States.

RIDGEWAY SUN

Electricity Costs Spike: The State Demands More Power

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The Ridgewood

Tuesday, December 13, 2015

New Funding: Police & Fire

Police and fire chiefs were pleasantly surprised to find their funding increased for the upcoming calendar year... [Continue on page 2]

The Ridgewood

Sunday, June 10, 2015

Business of the Year: Ridgewood

With its long record of bringing prosperity and commerce to the greater Ridgewood area, Ridgewood Coal Plant has been named Business of the year by the... [Continue on page 3]