

Name: _____

Date: _____

To: Department of Energy Detective
From: The President of the United States
RE: The High Price of Oil

As you know, the price that Americans must pay for gasoline at gas stations around the country has risen dramatically over the last few years. Many citizens are blaming me for the high price of gas. Obviously this hurts me politically. I am not happy.

I have a plan to blame those countries that are part of the OPEC (Oil Producing Exporting Countries) Cartel for the high price of gasoline. But I am not certain if this is fair. Therefore, I would like you to determine whether or not it is appropriate for me to blame this problem on OPEC nations.

In order to determine if it is appropriate for me to blame the high price of gasoline on OPEC nations, I would like you to answer the following questions:

1. What nations are in OPEC?

2. What does OPEC do?

3. Have OPEC nations increased the price that they charge for oil in the last few years? How do you know this?

4. Are any other entities outside the OPEC nations involved in the production and sale of gasoline? If so, what kinds of entities? (Explain what each of these entities does to help produce gasoline)

5. What percentage of the money spent on gasoline does each of the entities involved in the production of gasoline receive when gas is sold?