

### Sample: Energy Sources: A Dilemma for the Twenty-First Century

Everyone has come to expect that reliable sources of energy will be available forever. Cars are driven wherever and whenever they are wanted. When the gas tank gets low, you simply pull into the nearest gas station. At home, the nearest appliance is simply turned on whenever there is a need to change the temperature, prepare food, listen to music, or watch TV. What is the source of all this energy that is used so carelessly? In most of the world, energy is created by burning fossil fuels—coal, natural gas, and oil. The problem is that these resources are finite. At the current rate of use, by the year 2080, the world's supply of oil will be almost gone (Ahn, J.K., 2014, p. 62). That means that for anyone under the age of forty (Kim & Kim, 2010, p. 15), the day will probably come when there will not be enough gasoline for cars or electricity for appliances. But, that day will only come in the distant future. The three most commonly proposed solutions to the problem of finite energy sources are improving conservation efforts, increasing the efficiency of appliances and vehicles, and finding alternative energy sources.

The first solution to the problem is increasing the efficiency of appliances and vehicles, and is something that manufacturers have been working on for three decades. For instance, televisions now use 65 to 75 percent less electricity than they did in the 1970s, refrigerators use 20 to 30 percent less electricity, and cars need less gas to travel more miles (Lee, 2012, p. 100). Unfortunately, there are so many more televisions, refrigerators, and cars in the world now that overall consumption continues to rise by 50% per decade (Anonymous, N.D., N.P.).

There is a second solution to the dangerous energy situation. For example, everyone must get in the habit of recycling whenever they can. High-efficiency light bulbs that use 25% less power have to be installed in houses and offices and lights must be turned off when not in use (Hwang, 2008, P.?). And, it would also help if we biked, walked, carpooled, or used public transportation more and used cars less. Studies have shown that moving away from private automobile transportation can reduce energy consumption by 35% with an accompanying reduction in polluting emissions (Anonymous, N.D., N.P.). Weakness?

Another solution, then, is to find alternative sources of energy to meet future energy needs. The current leading alternatives to fossil fuels are fusion and solar energy (Lee, 2012, p. 80). Fusion is a nuclear reaction that results in an enormous release of energy (Kim & Kim, 2010, p. 18). It is practically pollution-free and is probably the best long-range option. Unfortunately, it will not be available for at least twenty years (Ahn, 2014, p. 59). The other possible energy source, solar power, is the source of all energy, except nuclear, on Earth. When people think of solar energy, they generally think of the many ways that individual homeowners can utilize the power of the sun for heating water and buildings. So, it is estimated that increasing the global production of solar panels by just 25% would result in sufficient power availability for some 2 billion people (Anonymous, N.D., N.P.). However, it is unclear that there is sufficient solar energy to generate electricity and to purify fuels for automobiles.

It is clear that in order to have sufficient energy resources for the twenty-first century, I think **one solution** is to pursue the development and encourage the use of alternative energy sources worldwide. **For example, increasing the global production of solar panels by just 25% would result in sufficient power availability for some 2 billion people (Anonymous, N.D., N.P.). Other solutions summary?** If **we** ignore this problem, what will become of future generations? What will life be like for them in the year 2050?

### **References**

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**List in alphabetical order?**

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