



## APES Nuclear Power Position Writing Response

### Directions:

1. Read the Department of Energy Pamphlet on Nuclear Energy
2. Read the Fact Sheet on the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage facility
3. Read MIT scientist Stephen Ansolabehere's essay "The Future of Nuclear Power- Overview and Conclusions".

On a separate piece of paper answer the following questions:

1. Describe the process of fission based power generation.
2. What is radiation exactly?
3. How is Uranium prepared for fission-based nuclear reactors?
4. What is a meltdown?
5. Describe the events at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island.
6. What is the nuclear waste disposal process like?
7. How will the Yucca Mountain facility alter the United States disposal of nuclear waste?

Around 2002, the United States government supported the idea that we as a country should start building new nuclear power plants (the last one was manufactured about 30 years ago and none since then), and that our country should be getting more of our energy from nuclear power, like several European countries do. In a brief essay, defend your position on the widespread use of nuclear power as a viable energy production strategy. Identify at least three major points to support your position.