

Energy Policy Research Essay Contest Rules

Our demand for energy is growing at an ever increasing pace. Global consumption of oil and gas has risen drastically over the past decade, and supply is become ever sparser. Our generation will be responsible for providing a feasible solution. Alternative energy(s); i.e. biofuels and renewables, expanded uses of our natural resources such as coal and natural gas, and a more efficient use of our oil resources will all play a strategic role in the continued success or eventual failure of the global economy.

As the future leaders of this great nation, it is our responsibility to formulate, discuss, and disseminate attainable policies to our nations leaders, focused on providing a solution. This is no easy task and should by no means be taken as such.

I challenge the members of the Energy Association to draft a sound energy policy, built on empirical data and expert sources, that will help guide our nation for years to come. In taking on such a monstrous task, there are many facets to be considered:

- What is the extent of energy self-sufficiency for this nation
- Where future energy sources will derive
- How future energy will be consumed (e.g. among sectors)
- What fraction of the population will be acceptable to endure energy poverty
- What are the goals for future energy intensity, ratio of energy consumed to GDP
- What is the reliability standard for distribution reliability
- What environmental externalities are acceptable and are forecast
- What form of "portable energy" is forecast (e.g. sources of fuel for motor vehicles)
- How will energy efficient hardware (e.g. hybrid vehicles, household appliances) be encouraged
- How can the national policy drive province, state and municipal functions
- What specific mechanisms (e.g. taxes, incentives, manufacturing standards) are in place to implement the total policy

A successful submission should be no less than 2,700 words and display a coherent and well organized discussion on policies to be implemented. This can be either an individual or team effort; however, no more than four persons may be on a team. **Do not feel compelled to discuss each of the aforementioned; as they are presented simply to give you a guideline to draw from. You are free to focus on any area of specific interest, or draft a policy that is all encompassing.**

This contest will yield a first, second, and third prize judged by University of Houston faculty. Awards will be \$1,000.00, \$750.00, and \$500.00 respectively. **The submission deadline will be April 15th and winners will be announced at our end of semester banquet.**