

Pollution Vocabulary

Use your notes on pollution vocabulary to help you write a good essay for your Language Arts final. You will be receiving a grade in Science based on how well you understand and use this vocabulary in your paper. You should try and use, correctly, at least five scientific vocabulary words in your essay for a high grade.

In the two articles provided by Mrs. Young, if you find words you do not understand and are not on this worksheet, you should look them up in a dictionary.

- EPA (Environmental Protection Agency): a _____ agency that enforces _____ protection laws enacted by _____.
- NRDC (National Resources Defense Council): a _____ organization that advocates for _____ responsibility, and is an important part of the _____ movement. They are the issuer of the report on the environmental impacts of the 9/11 attacks.
- WNA (World Nuclear Association): a _____ organization that supports nuclear power to generate _____. They are the issuer of the report on the environmental impacts of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear attacks.
- Sinusitis, bronchitis, asthma: diseases of the _____ that can cause illness and death, often caused or worsened by breathing in _____
- Particulates (particulate matter, PM): matter in the form of small _____, often small enough to enter the _____ when people breathe, usually considered a form of _____
- Contaminants: substances that contaminate the natural _____, another word for _____
- Asbestos, VOCs (volatile organic compounds), PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), Dioxins (DCLs): several groups of highly _____ substances (some of which are known to cause _____) that have a variety of _____ uses and are found in many _____. Some of these substances have been _____ or restricted, but can still be found in _____ products.
- Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg): natural _____ that have many _____ uses, but are _____ to humans (and other life) in pure form

- Nuclear reactions: powerful reactions that change atomic _____ and release energy. Radiation and particles released by nuclear reactions can be _____ to humans, but the energy is used to power _____ power plants, and nuclear _____!
- Nuclear fusion: when two or more atoms are fused, or _____, together to form a new (often unstable) atom with a release of _____
- Nuclear fission: when an unstable atom _____ spontaneously, or on _____ with another particle, with a release of _____
- Isotope: different _____ of the same atom/element (same # of protons, different # of neutrons), some can be _____ and _____. Radioactive isotopes are also known as _____.
- Uranium (U): a naturally unstable and _____ element. The most common isotope is uranium-238 (U-238), but the most useful isotope for nuclear _____ and _____ is uranium-235 (U-235). When uranium is _____, the more rare U-235 is concentrated for use in weapons or nuclear power.
- Plutonium (Pu): another naturally occurring unstable and _____ element used for _____ and nuclear _____. Most plutonium used however is created from other nuclear _____. Isotopes used for _____ and nuclear power are Pu-239, Pu-240, and Pu-241.
- Teratogenic effects (teratology): abnormal effects (_____) in the physiological development of _____ and _____, sometimes caused by _____ contamination