

Pollution Vocabulary

- Complete the “cloze notes” worksheet and GLUE IT INTO YOUR NOTEBOOK!
- Use the completed worksheet to help you write your LA final essay!



- **EPA (Environmental Protection Agency):** a federal agency that enforces environmental protection laws enacted by Congress.



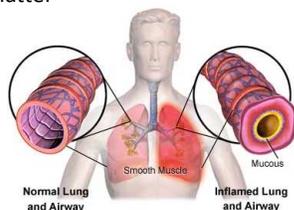
- **NRDC (National Resources Defense Council):** a non-profit organization that advocates for environmental responsibility, and is an important part of the environmental movement. They are the issuer of the report on the environmental impacts of the 9/11 attacks.



- **WNA (World Nuclear Association):** a non-profit organization that supports nuclear power to generate electricity. They are the issuer of the report on the environmental impacts of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear attacks.



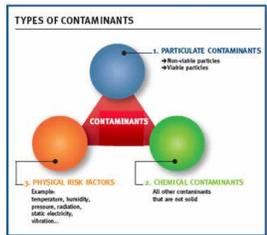
- **Sinusitis, bronchitis, asthma:** diseases of the lungs that can cause illness and death, often caused or worsened by breathing in particulate matter



- **Particulates (particulate matter, PM):** matter in the form of small particles, often small enough to enter the lungs when people breathe, usually considered a form of pollution



- **Contaminants:** substances that contaminate the natural environment, another word for pollution



- **Asbestos**
- **VOCs** (volatile organic compounds)
- **PAHs** (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)
- **PCBs** (polychlorinated biphenyls)
- **Dioxins** (DCLs)

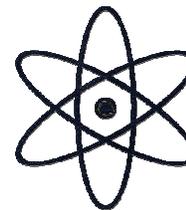


several groups of highly toxic substances (some of which are known to cause cancer) that have a variety of industrial uses and are found in many products. Some of these substances have been banned or restricted, but can still be found in older products.

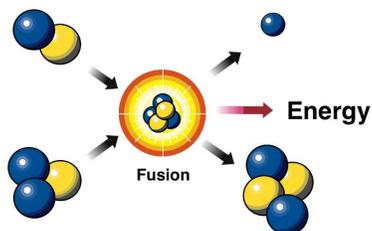
- **Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg):** natural elements that have many industrial uses, but are toxic to humans (and other life) in pure form



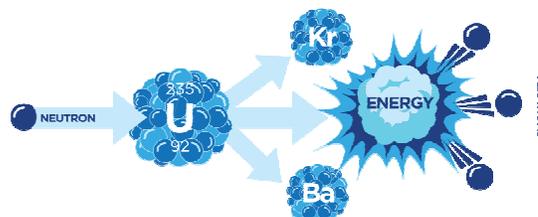
- **Nuclear reactions:** powerful reactions that change atomic nuclei and release energy. Radiation and particles released by nuclear reactions can be harmful to humans, but the energy is used to power electrical power plants, and nuclear weapons!



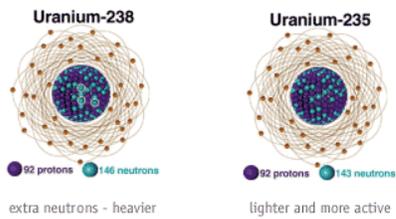
- **Nuclear fusion:** when two or more atoms are fused, or joined, together to form a new (often unstable) atom with a release of energy



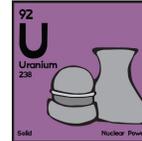
- **Nuclear fission:** when an unstable atom splits spontaneously, or on impact with another particle, with a release of energy



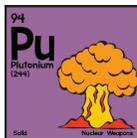
- **Isotope**: different forms of the same atom/element (same # of protons, different # of neutrons), some can be radioactive and unstable. Radioactive isotopes are also known as **radionuclides**.



- **Uranium (U)**: a naturally unstable and radioactive element. The most common isotope is uranium-238 (U-238), but the most useful isotope for nuclear power and weapons is uranium-235 (U-235). When uranium is enriched, the more rare U-235 is concentrated for use in weapons or nuclear power



- **Plutonium (Pu)**: another naturally occurring unstable and radioactive element used for weapons and nuclear power. Most plutonium used however is created from other nuclear reactions. Isotopes used for weapons and nuclear power are Pu-239, Pu-240, and Pu-241.



- **Teratogenic effects (teratology)**: abnormal effects (mutations and deformities) in the physiological development of plants and animals, sometimes caused by radioactive contamination

