

Environmental Prompts

Thomas A. Fink, English

Compare and contrast the environmental record of President Richard Nixon (1969-1974) with that of George W. Bush (2001-2007). How did Nixon and Bush initiate and/or respond to efforts to enact laws protecting the environment in the areas of a) air, b) water, c) food, d) forests? What are the strengths and weaknesses of their actions and/or lack of actions? In your conclusion, summarize the ways in which their approaches to the environment have been similar or different, and then assess which President did more for ecology, and why.

Compare and contrast the uses of solar energy and nuclear energy. What are the main benefits and problems involved in each? On the basis of your research, should one of these forms of energy be used exclusively, or should each serve different functions? Why?

Compare and contrast biodiesel cars (or solar cars—choose one) and hybrid cars. How do they work? What kind(s) of natural resources will be required, and how will those resources constitute an improvement over gasoline and oil? How durable will the cars be? How expensive will the cars be to build, maintain, and dispose of? If expenses are high, how can these costs be managed? Which one will cause less pollution than the other? Why? In your conclusion, indicate which kind of vehicle (if either) you consider a positive alternative to today's conventional gasoline-powered vehicles. Why?

How can paper products (including cardboard) be recycled effectively? How do some of the processes work? What are the costs and problems of paper-recycling? What are the environmental benefits? What are the long-term economic benefits? In your conclusion, develop a plan (based to some extent on your research) for the expansion of paper-recycling activities worldwide.

How can glass and plastic products be recycled effectively? How do some of the processes work? What are the costs and problems of glass and plastic recycling? What are the environmental benefits? What are the long-term economic benefits? In your conclusion, develop a plan (based to some extent on your research) for the expansion of glass and plastic recycling activities worldwide.

What can be done to reduce water pollution substantially in terms of laws to protect the environment? What can be done to reduce water pollution substantially in terms of processes to purify bodies of water and water supplies? How do the processes work? What are the costs and problems involved in these solutions? What are the environmental benefits? What are the long-term economic benefits? In your conclusion, develop a plan (based to some extent on your research) for the implementation of effective measures to combat water pollution.

What can be done to reduce air pollution substantially in terms of laws to protect the environment? What can be done to reduce air pollution substantially in terms of processes to purify the air? How do the processes work? What are the costs and problems involved in these solutions? What are the environmental benefits? What are the long-term economic benefits? In your conclusion, develop a plan (based to some extent on your research) for the implementation of effective measures to combat air pollution.