

Energy Sources: Debate Prompts Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

Because this is a debate worksheet, answers will vary. Below are sample responses showing what strong answers might include.

- 1. Strongest Advantage (FOR):** Renewable energy reduces pollution and will never run out.
Strongest Advantage (AGAINST): Nonrenewable energy provides reliable, affordable power today.
- 2. Weakness & Response (FOR):** Renewables are expensive to install.
Response: Costs are dropping quickly as technology improves.
Weakness & Response (AGAINST): Fossil fuels pollute the planet. *Response:* Technology like carbon capture may reduce emissions.
- 3. Environmental Effects (FOR):** Renewables help slow climate change and keep air and water cleaner.
Environmental Effects (AGAINST): Fossil fuels release greenhouse gases and harm ecosystems, but they can be managed with regulations.
- 4. Economic Effects (FOR):** Renewable energy creates new jobs in technology and construction.
Economic Effects (AGAINST): Fossil fuels are cheaper right now and keep many workers employed in existing industries.
- 5. Future Vision (FOR):** A clean world powered by sunlight, wind, and water with less climate damage.
Future Vision (AGAINST): A world with steady, affordable power but possible long-term environmental problems.

Reflection (sample answer): Even if I argued for fossil fuels, I can admit renewable energy is better for the planet in the long run.