

# **For or Against the Implementation of a Nuclear Power Plant**

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As part of a complementary course entitled "Chemistry from Yesterday to Tomorrow", the last pedagogical activity submitted to the students was to simulate the creation of a citizens' committee concerned about the potential implementation of a nuclear power plant in their region.

The teacher presents the situation scenario *For or Against the Implementation of a Nuclear Power Plant* to the class. The students then choose a topic for further study and divide themselves into teams. The teacher acts only as guide/facilitator. The students take part in discussions to shed some light on the topic based on bibliographical research done between classes.

Although the students have limited scientific knowledge — the course is not available in the *Science* program —, they should nevertheless research the problem in detail, just as would any responsible citizen concerned about the quality of his environment, form a critical opinion, and develop concrete measures to inform the population of their position on the issue.

This activity may be integrated into other courses, such as *General Chemistry: Matter, Physical Science 436, Electricity and Magnetism, Learning Integration*, etc. In this case, the activity may need to be rearranged to make it shorter. For example, it could be introduced at the end of a theoretical course to enable the students to familiarize themselves with the issue, divide into teams and assign tasks. Afterwards, one or two laboratory sessions could be scheduled for students to exchange information.