

Physics 199REL Assignment 3: Position Paper

Choose a specific aspect of one of the following alternative energy technologies

- Solar
- Wind
- Biofuel
- Geothermal
- Tidal
- Nuclear (be specific, fission, fusion, thorium cycle, IFR)
- Other (must be cleared with me)

You are welcome to discuss your topic choice with Prof. Pitts

Research the topic and write a “Position Paper” that you would hand to the President.

The paper should answer the following questions.

1. What is the technology?
2. What is the current status of the technology?
3. What are the challenges associated with this technology?
4. Should the U.S. government invest money/resources/people in this technology?
Why or Why not?

Your position paper can be as short as you want, but **it may not exceed two pages**. In addition to researching the topic, you must consider what information to include and how to present it to a non-expert. You cannot assume that the President is familiar with technical issues of this type. You should also include references.

Each student will write their own position paper. Each student will review the position paper of two other students.

You will upload your paper draft. Two students in the class will review it and submit comments. You will have the opportunity to revise your paper based upon these comments.

Each reviewer will provide the following:

1. Comments on the overall clarity of the paper. Was it easy to understand and follow?
2. Comments on the overall argument. Do the facts presented support the conclusion?
3. Suggestions on how to improve the paper.

After receiving the reviewer’s comments, the author has the opportunity to modify or rewrite the paper.

Timeline:

1. Mar 1 title and abstract due.
2. Mar 8 position paper due. Papers distributed to reviewers.
3. Mar 13 reviewer reports due. Author and reviewers discuss papers during class.
4. Mar 15 paper rewrite due. Authors are not required to modify/rewrite their paper.