



Life:Powered

**ENERGY SOURCE
RESEARCH: A
Lesson on Energy
Sources for Middle
and High School
Students**

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ELABORATE: Poster Activity

For this activity the students will be making a close examination of two different viewpoints of an energy source. Let's use Texas as an example. Texas is the only state in the nation with its own electric grid. Most electricity generated in Texas is sold into a wholesale market regulated by the Public Utility Commission, or PUC. The electricity is then bought by a variety of retail electric providers, distributed through transmission lines and sold to end consumers such as homeowners, businesses, and industry. This means that the electricity used by those customers comes from a variety of sources including coal, natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar, biomass, and hydroelectric energy. Divide the class into groups and assign one of the above energy sources to each group. Have the students work individually or in pairs to create a poster that explores the pros and cons to their assigned energy source. Topics to cover should include—

- Availability of resource
- Cost
- Impact to environment, plant and animal habitat
- Reliability
- Energy Density (area or power)

For more information on the electric grid, watch the PragerU video [The Great Texas Freeze of 2021](#).