

TAKE A STAND

Student’s Name: _____

Directions: People often have different feelings, or opinions, about the same thing. A “debate” is when people argue their different ideas. A good, persuasive argument has the following:

Facts - statements that can be proven to be true.

Statistics - research from a scientific study that uses numbers.

Examples - stories from the world that support an opinion.

You and a partner are going to debate two of your other classmates. The topic you are going to debate is the following:

In order to solve the air pollution, the Chinese government should substitute natural gas for coal for power stations even though it will cost \$ 215 billion annually.

Decide whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Then answer these questions in order to win your debate.

1. What are your 2 strongest points to persuade the other side? (You can do Internet research to include facts, statistics, and examples.)

A. Health impacts and lost labor productivity costs are estimated at 6.5% of China's gross domestic product. Applying that figure to China's 2012 GDP of \$8.2 trillion the loss should be more than \$500 billion..

B. The investment could not only reduce pollution, lesson the drag on productivity, but also could spare the lungs of countless people and save lives..

2. What will the other side say to argue against point A?

Health impacts and lost labor productivity were not merely caused by the air pollution. They were affected by other complicated factors.

3. What will the other side say to argue against point B?

Even though the government could prevent the air pollution caused by the coal-fired power plants, yet it cannot stop the smoking population from smoking, and it cannot stop the increasing number of vehicles. What’s more, the government cannot change Beijing’s weather and geography which are the other reasons for the pollution.

4. What will you say to prove the other side’s arguments are wrong?

We should do all we can to reduce the air pollution no matter how much it would cost. People’s health should always be the first priority. What more important is, we should provide our children a clear environment in the future.