

Oil and Coal | Annotation Letters to the Next President Anchor 2

	Employs a Public Voice	Advocates Civic Engagement	Argues a Position Based on Reasoning & Evidence	Employs a Structure
<p>Title: Oil and Coal</p> <p>Form: Public Letter</p> <p>Media: Text</p> <p>URL: https://letters2president.org/letters/9002</p>	<p>Score 2 The writing:</p> <p>Employs rhetorical strategies that are somewhat ineffective. It assumes, but does not provide, background knowledge necessary for the intended presidential audience to understand the local civic issue. For example, to begin the discussion around the oil pipeline, the writing states, <i>“Here in North Dakota, there are some concerns the people would like to see resolved in a way that would help benefit this great nation. The first concern is that if oil pipelines. As far as what been in the news, many people are denying these ideas.”</i> It is not clear what the concerns are, nor is clear what ideas many people are denying.</p> <p>In addition, credibility is limited by occasional language errors and a lack of proofreading. (e.g., <i>“...around the town in live in”</i> and <i>“The first concern is that if oil pipelines,”</i> and <i>“...get rid of the cars in major cities and have the enhabiance ride bicycle to work, or to lunch, or to their date’s home.”</i>)</p>	<p>Score 2 The writing:</p> <p>Weakly raises awareness of the benefits of building oil pipeline and maintaining coal fired power plants as fuel sources.</p> <p>Weakly articulates the reasonableness and feasibility of the proposed actions of building an oil pipeline and use of coal-fired plants. The proposed actions rely on unsupported claims about both the implementation and benefits of the proposals, as well as what trade offs might be made if the proposals are not fully successful. For example, <i>“Coal fired plants are simply the easiest and safest method to obtain energy for the millions of homes here in the U.S. If the global warming concept is still an issue, the get rid of the cars in major cities and have the enhabiance ride bicycle to work, or to lunch, or to their date’s home.”</i> In this case the trade off is neither reasonable nor feasible at this time in our history.</p>	<p>Score 2 The writing:</p> <p>Uses limited reasoning, relying on simplistic responses (<i>“If a leak may occur, it could be easily fixed.”</i>) and unsupported claims (<i>“These plants are also safer than the nuclear alternative.”</i>) to address potential counter arguments to building an oil pipeline and relying on coal fired power plants. The writing explicitly values job creation and safety of energy sources, although these values are only weakly supported by the argument.</p> <p>Provides appropriate but insufficient evidence in support of the two positions. For example, writing includes the beginnings of a cost benefit analysis comparing train and truck transport of oil with an oil pipeline, but relies on reasoning, <i>“...which if the train or truck get into an accident, life is lost, money is lost, energy is not obtained,”</i> that ignores the potential that pipelines may also have accidents. In addition, the writing relies on a piece of evidence it accepts at face value, without a consideration how its source and purpose might influence its position or argument. <i>“A couple years ago I took a tour of the plant; our tour guide showing that the plant was designed to capture the harmful gases and other materials for local farmers’ use and other job fields’ use.”</i></p> <p>Relies on a strategy of setting up an countering and alternative view, support for nuclear power plants, without recognizing that opponents of the pipeline or plants may have other options in mind for the safe production and distribution of energy. This weakens the argued position.</p>	<p>Score 2 The writing:</p> <p>Presents an organization that weakens the central argument by taking on two loosely related issues (oil and coal) and offering one paragraph of development related to each topic.</p> <p>Includes a general opening statement that is only vaguely related to call to action even though it makes a personal connection to the concern: <i>“Here in North Dakota, there are some concerns the people would like to see resolved in a way that would help benefit this great nation.”</i></p> <p>Includes a generic closing with a nominal reference to points and thus is only vaguely related to the call for civic engagement. <i>“I look towards the future to see if these matters are spoken of.”</i></p> <p>Presents ideas that pertain to the topics of oil and coal. The missing linkage between oil pipeline and coal plant results in haphazard discussion of topics. <i>“The pipeline will help the oil industry, and coal fired plants are our best way to obtain energy safely.”</i></p>

