

KWLH Chart (Topic: Nuclear Disasters)

Name _____

What do you KNOW ?	What do you WANT to know?	What did you LEARN ?	HOW did you learn it?

Timeline Answer Key

Name _____

Event	Date	Outcome
Rockets tested	1949-2007	Affected the nearby areas, winning the Cold War was more important than people's health and environment
SSFL began operations	1947	North American Aviation (NNA) and later Rocketdyne developed and tested liquid rocket engines
Began nuclear energy production	1955	DOE and local power companies conducts energy-related research, testing, and development programs
Nuclear power plant operational	1957	Electric power is produced for nearby cities
Sodium reactor partial meltdown	1959	SSFL released toxic fumes and radioactive chemicals into the ground, air, and water—300 times what was safe Event was covered up
NASA took over part of the facility	1973	Tested engines for space program, allowed space program to be successful
Burro Flats Cave protected	1976	By adding to National Registry of Historic Places, it will be saved from destruction
Workers killed	1991	Illegal handling and dumping of chemicals were proven by US attorneys
Boeing buys part of the company Rocketdyne	1996	Boeing owns part of SSFL and argues that there were not major contaminations from 1959 event

Nuclear research ends	1998	End of contamination
Population is living near SSFL	2000s	Residents are living near there and SSFL is not isolated anymore
Rocket testing ends	2006	End of contamination
Clean up agreement reached	2007	Work begins on cleaning up chemical contamination Buildings demolished, restoring plants and monitoring water systems Boeing set up a conservation area
Residents suffer the damage from contamination	2007	Residents who live near SSFL have higher cancer rates
Woolsey fire	2018	Wildfire burned and spread radioactive and toxic chemicals
Radioactive fires	1964 and 1969	Released toxic fumes and radioactive chemicals into the ground, air, and water
Area contamination	Today	Contamination is still spreading through soil and water systems, health issues continue, DOE still hasn't admitted to created the issues
Cultural site proposed for Burro Flats and surrounding area	Today	Allows NASA to walk away from its obligations to clean up the SSFL area

Persuasive Letter Scoring Guide

Score	5	4	3	2	1
Focus	Takes a clear and consistent position and supports it with relevant reasons and/or examples through much of the essay.	Takes a clear position and supports it with some relevant reasons and/or examples; there is some development of the essay.	Takes a position and provides uneven support; may lack development in parts or be repetitive OR essay is no more than a well-written beginning.	Takes a position, but essay is underdeveloped.	Attempts to take a position (addresses topic), but position is very unclear OR takes a position, but provides minimal or no support; may only paraphrase the prompt.
Organization	Is focused and well organized, with effective use of transitions.	Is well organized, but may lack some transitions.	Is organized in parts of the essay; other parts are disjointed and/or lack transitions.	Is disorganized or unfocused in much of the essay OR is clear, but too brief.	Exhibits little or no apparent organization.
Sentence Fluency	Consistently exhibits variety in sentence structure and word choice.	Exhibits some variety in sentence structure and uses good word choice; occasionally, words may be used inaccurately.	Sentence structure may be simple and unvaried; word choice is mostly accurate.	Sentences lack formal structure; word choice may often be inaccurate.	Sentences run-on and appear incomplete or rambling.
Conventions	Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation are few and do not interfere with understanding.	More frequent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation sometimes interfere with understanding.	Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation interfere with understanding in much of the essay.	Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation prevent reader from fully understanding essay.

Writing Assignment: Write a letter to one of the government agencies concerned with the Santa Susana Field Lab. Express your opinion on whether or not this agency should take steps to clean up the location that experienced the nuclear meltdown. Use your Timeline and KWLH Chart to help you craft your letter. Make sure you follow the Scoring Guide Column 5 to get the best results for your letter.