

High Speed Breaks High Prices

Scenario:

High gas prices threaten to cripple the California economy. The Governor wants to build a high-speed train to help people travel efficiently and economically around the state. He knows that 4th Graders in his state study about how electrical energy can be converted to heat, light and motion. and he wants them to help him get the word out. He has announced a valley-wide competition for teams of 4th Grade students to create a multimedia presentation for building a high-speed electrical train for California. The winning team will accompany the governor on a tour to inform people throughout the San Joaquin Valley so they can make an informed decision on the issue.

Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):

1. What is a high-speed electrical train?
2. How does it work?
3. Why should California have one?
4. How safe are they?
5. What cities in California would be on the line?
6. How will a train affect the residents of the San Joaquin Valley?
7. Worldwide, where do they have such trains now?
8. How have the trains helped the people in those places?
9. How does a high speed train system cost?

Possible Sources

Newspapers, libraries, Internet websites

Railway Technology <http://www.railway-technology.com/projects/germany/>

csmonitor.com <http://www.csmonitor.com/2001/1213/p15s1-stct.html>

Science Reference Services <http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/tracer-bullets/highrailtb.html>

Bibliography

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>