

2025 Earth Day Writing Contest

Grade 9 Functional Writing Prompt

Section II: Functional Writing (Suggested time - 40 min)

Read the situation below and complete the assignment that follows.

The Situation:

Canada's energy story began with using the land's natural resources for heat and light, such as wood and coal. Over time, the country's rich natural resources became the foundation for modern energy production. Canada has made significant progress in energy production, balancing innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. Canada is a global leader in renewable energy, with over 60% of its electricity generated from hydropower, supplemented by growing contributions from wind, solar, nuclear and biomass. Investments in clean energy technology and grid modernization are helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Canada continues to develop its oil and gas sector with an emphasis on reducing environmental impacts through carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies. These efforts show Canada's commitment to a future with diverse, cleaner energy sources that support both people and the planet.

Assignment:

Your task is to write a formal letter to your local municipality, explaining at least one type of renewable energy, it's pros and cons, and why you believe (or do not believe) that it is important to make the shift towards using renewable resources.

When writing your letter be sure to include information on:

- The difference between the energy sources you currently use, and the sources that Thomas would have used in his own time.
- One type of renewable energy that could power our world into the future (Wind, Solar, Geothermal, Hydropower, Nuclear or Biomass)

Notes

- The first coal mine in Alberta opened in Lethbridge, in 1882.
- Oil replaced coal as Canada's largest source of energy in 1950.
- Canada is the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the world.
- 9.5% of Canada's electricity currently comes from coal.
- Natural Gas pipelines first delivered gas to Albertans in 1908.
- The first plastic made from petroleum, Nylon, was invented in 1936.
- The first commercial wind farm in Canada was Cowley Ridge, built in 1993, near Pincher Creek, Alberta.

Resources:

[Earth Day.org](https://bit.ly/3VzaXeD): <https://bit.ly/3VzaXeD>

[Natural Resources Canada](https://bit.ly/3DgHPCE): <https://bit.ly/3DgHPCE>

[Ingenium Canada Energy Education](https://bit.ly/3OUcuso): <https://bit.ly/3OUcuso>

[The Early History of Energy in Alberta](https://bit.ly/4isVBCh): <https://bit.ly/4isVBCh>

[Alliant Energy for Kids](https://bit.ly/41zCZKK): <https://bit.ly/41zCZKK>

[Energy in Alberta Timeline](https://bit.ly/4fiUfHe): <https://bit.ly/4fiUfHe>

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