

Paper Y

Task 2 Template (Argumentation/Analysis): Should Congress repeal the ban on incandescent light bulbs set for 2014? After reading a variety of informational and persuasive texts, write an essay that addresses the question and support your position with evidence from the text(s). **L2** Be sure to acknowledge competing views.

Did you know that you could be wasting money and electricity by using incandescent light bulbs? Incandescent light bulbs are an old and out dated source for light. I think that there is a better source of light without the unwanted flaws. Here are some reasons why CFL light bulbs are better than incandescent light bulbs.

The CFL bulbs are more energy efficient than the old style of incandescent lighting. A regular CFL has the lifespan of 6,000 to 15,000 hours compared to the typical 750 to 1,000 hours of most incandescent bulbs. (Pirraglia). When a 13 watt CFL and 60 Watt incandescent bulb, one and the same to each other, are both lit for 8,000 hours each the CFL uses less electricity saving energy. The CFL uses 104 kilowatts of electricity and the incandescent 480 kilowatts of electricity. The two bulbs produce light in different ways which makes them use energy differently. The conventional incandescent bulb has a piece of resistive wire of tungsten running through a glass bulb. When electricity is sent through the filament it is heated and begins to glow. As the temperature of the wire increases it gets brighter creating light. The typical incandescent bulb will emit 2.5% of its energy as visible light and wastes the other 97.5% as heat. But CFL bulbs are a glass tube coated with phosphor and filled with argon and small amounts of mercury when electricity is sent through the tube the atoms excited and create ultraviolet light. This illuminates the phosphor fixture and cast a blue/white light. The point of a light bulb is to produce light, not heat, and for this reason CFL bulbs use up to 75% less energy than an incandescent light bulb.

By replacing bulbs with CFLs a person's electricity bill will be reduced, in the long run saving them lots of cash. CFLs, being around three dollars a bulb, have a greater retail price than incandescent bulbs pricing less than a dollar. But when you do the math since one CFL lasts ten times longer you'd have to buy ten incandescent bulbs to one CFL and the CFL will save money on electricity. So in all a single CFL can save the consumer up to 30 dollars in one lifespan. McLendon

However I don't think that Congress should ban incandescents. There are many people that still use incandescent and personally prefer them over CFL. Another reason is that CFLs contain mercury and are toxic if not handled properly, which isn't any better than wasting power. I feel that CFLs are better in one way but worse in another.

Although CFLs have proved that they are more energy efficient than incandescent lights I think that there is a better light source than CFLs. LED light bulbs have shown that they are a lot more energy efficient than both CFLs and incandescent, and they don't contain mercury, none at all. Although they are really expensive right now, LEDs are the light of the future.

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Bibliography

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