**Personal Reflection**

Scott Wagner

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My inquiry question was ‘what environmental effects does fracking have on North America?’ I believe the whole topic of fracking can be related to our science class because it Is a very controversial topic due to the fact that it is great for the economy but can have some negative side effects on the environment and communities that live near the well sites. I have learned a lot about fracking while doing this project, such how fracking is used and where it is used in North America. Also I learned about the dangerous side affects of it like how some residents that live near well sites or waste water disposal wells can literally light the water coming out of their tap on fire due to the methane levels being as much as 17 times higher than they were before the fracking. Along with that I learned that there have been more than 1000 reported cases of polluted water, which can contain toxic materials that are extremely dangerous to humans and other organisms in the environment. Fracking can be connected to the environment because of the extreme harm that it is causing to areas that have been mined such as the water pollution. Fracking is great for the economy because it creates lots of jobs and revenue for the country and province/state it is being mined from, and as of 2012 2.9 million people were employed in the U.S. with jobs related to fracking. Social impacts of fracking can be seen both ways, good and bad. This is because residents of the towns that have been ‘overrun’ by the oil and gas boom feel that the excessive amount of traffic is ruining there town but know that it is good for most local business. The reason I chose fracking as a topic is because I have looked into it before and I know it is a controversial topic as the positives and negatives are both quite extreme. I think it is important to educate people about fracking because even though it is great for the economy it is damaging the environment and putting thousands of people at risk because of side effects such as the increase in methane and the highly dangerous chemicals that are used during the mining. In the future I think that more negative side effects caused by Fracking will begin to be uncovered, which will cause fracking to be banned in many places. I also think that fracking will evolve or a new, safer technology for drilling will be used because at the end of the day we all need oil and gas for everyday life from fuel for our vehicles to natural gas for heating our homes, something that is extremely important for anyone who lives in a Canada.