DO NOW

What is fracking?
DO NOW

WATCH AND RESPOND
THE FRACKING CONTROVERSY

NATURAL GAS USE IN NEW ENGLAND

DO NOW

What is fracking?

Fracking - or hydraulic fracturing - is a means of extracting natural gas from sedimentary rocks such as shale. The process involves drilling horizontal wells deep into underground rock and pumping in a mixture of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure.
60 MINUTES - FRACKING
Note the arguments for and against this technique

WRITTEN RESPONSE
Given what you know of our demand for natural gas and its economic and environmental impacts, should hydraulic fracturing (fracking) be banned? Support your stance with evidence.

NATURAL GAS IN NEW ENGLAND
- 60% of US homes use gas for heating
- MA produces no natural gas
- MA receives its supply by pipelines from other states and Canada
- Largest use is for electricity generation & residential sector (home heating)
TURN & TALK
Given what you know about energy use in Massachusetts and New England.....

What is the potential impact of the shift in energy sources used for electricity production, as seen in the previous graph.
SOURCES OF ENERGY - NATURAL GAS

THE PROBLEM
• Demand for Natural Gas is growing.
• Prices are going up and supply is hampered by capacity of existing pipelines

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
• Build new pipelines to increase the amount of natural gas flowing into the region
• Reduce demand for natural gas or energy overall
  • Conservation efforts
  • Renewables