

Writing assignment 9 - essay

In science, the effort to answer profound questions usually brings to light new profound questions to ponder, even as the earlier questions are answered. Physicists are discussing the construction of a new, large, expensive particle physics collider. I won't bore you with the details; but assume the physics questions this machine will explore are compelling. The new accelerator is likely to answer some profound questions about the early universe and the structure of matter and forces. It will create collisions in the laboratory at an energy that is 10 to a 100 times more energetic than those seen at the LHC, i.e., 10-100 times more energetic than any ever created before. Suppose this accelerator and the accompanying experiments will cost \$35 billion dollars. Assuming international collaboration in the construction of the project, the estimated cost for US participation in the project is \$9 billion if it is built elsewhere and \$19 billion if it is built in the US. You have just been elected to the US Congress. The President and the Department of Energy propose pushing forward with this project. Briefly discuss the issues about this project that would concern (or excite) you. Should you support the project? Why or why not?