Earth-Friendly Coal?

Background:

Coal is the source for almost half of the electricity in the U.S., in great part because it is both plentiful and inexpensive compared to other energy sources. Coal also happens to be the dirtiest of fossil fuels, a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, acid rain, water pollution and environmental destruction from mining. Today, “clean coal technology” is floated as a way for the U.S. to continue to burn coal while reducing its impact on the environment. Clean coal technology captures CO2 emitted at the power plant and then injects it underground to be stored for the long term. Can coal really be earth-friendly?

Watch the 27 minute PBS NOW program entitled, “Can Coal be Earth-Friendly,” available at <http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/515/index.html>.

Assignment:

What might be the pros and cons of this technology? As a homework assignment, research and then write a paper on the pros and cons of clean coal technology.