

Re: Explain Law of Conservation of Matter and Energy

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- *From:* "PD" <TheDraperFamily@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 29 Dec 2005 07:06:32 -0800
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Driftal2@xxxxxxxxx wrote:

- > So the title says it all. I'm a high school student and I have to write
- >
- > a 4-5 page essay on this law for my chemistry class. I've searched
- > google and couldn't find anything, except short definitions of the law.
- >
- > So can anyone give some information about the law or set up a outline
- > on how I should go about doing research on this law. Or what I should
- > do about getting started. Much is appreciated

Wikipedia is a great place to start: www.wikipedia.org.

But actually I would start with your chemistry book and the names Dalton and Lavoisere, especially for conservation of mass, and the name Joule for conservation of energy. It will be really important for you to understand the problem they were trying to figure out. Folks were well aware that you could combine two substances, but no one knew there was any **quantitative** rules surrounding it. They knew, for example, that combining hydrogen with oxygen produced water, but they had no idea how much of the former produced how much of the latter. Lavoisere was the first to be careful enough to show that not a fraction of an ounce of matter was lost or gained in that reaction. Lavoisere was a neat-freak and compulsively detail-minded. You could spend a whole essay on how much money he spent on equipment and how delicately he fine-tuned his measurements and how carefully he captured all of the material in the reaction to show what he showed.

PD

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- *References:*
 - ◆ *Explain Law of Conservation of Matter and Energy*
 - ◇ *From:* Driftal2

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