

In my 9th grade class we are to become a greater part of the world and find an active problem or issue in our society and seek for justification of the issue. We were to raise awareness of a particular issue, meaning an action would be taken place in a large attempt at

ending the situation or at least inhibiting its growth. This project is simply titled the You and The World project, or YATW for short. I gave much thought as to what topic I'd choose, I knew it would be what I was most concerned with, or what had interested me enough to actually take it with an action. After many tossed out ideas, and searching for newer, more engaging, relatable, serious, overall just a more worthy issue to be presented with the world. I finally figured that my topic could be a simple, small but noticeable problem, a problem strong enough that everyone could agree on it to change. A topic such as littering.



The most common form of litter: Cigarettes

Aside from the longed academic values, littering has been a rather significant topic for me, by reason of my own personal beliefs and core values. I believe that our world was meant to be shared, we often forget we do not own this world. All life is sacred in my eyes, none should be wasted by our carelessness. And if we don't have the least bit of unselfishness we could certainly even provide care to ourselves. The psychological strains of litter being present is not an issue we should pass by. It goes to show that those whose community is filled with waste, litter tend to have more violent communities, places of an unhappy discomfort, it really follows the saying that "a messy room is a sign of a messy mind." If this won't persuade you, then maybe you should also consider the more direct problems of litter. It is very often we see just how much litter can be the underdog of trouble.

As I mentioned earlier, our litter problem is not something to be taken lightly. In fact, the only way that we benefit from littering is by our own convenience. Our litter follows us all, not just humans either, but the Earth itself, we've generated so much waste that much of our ground litter is often found plugged up in our waterways, poisoning the water and so the animals of our aquatic ecosystems are affected, damaged, then often killed. It is also to note that "60% of water pollution comes from things like trash and litter..." as said on the [Litter Fact Sheet of Carmel City in Indiana](#). On the plant side of things, I'd take it that nearly every day our undecomposable glass lying around or our abundance of litter inhibiting plant growth is not the definition of healthy living. As for us, the United States specifically, we spend about 11.5 billion dollars annually on just cleaning up litter. All of that, for littering?! It makes you ask just how much more convenient it is to throw away things on the ground when the trashcan is just a few feet away.



Fail usage of public trash can

But you may say:

-By littering, you are creating jobs

-The bin was full

-There are much worst things in the world
or that

-One person can not make a difference

but the truth could tell that all of those are just excuses. They are hardly even supported with reason nor fact. Many , or at least the 75% of us whom admit to it forget litter is a crime, illegal in all 50 states. There are indeed bigger problems in the world, so why add to them? We already have enough to deal with, the jobs it creates at the taxpayer's expense is very few and will definitely don't outweigh the effects of littering. The bin being full is a horrible excuse, if the bin is full you can find another, there are often many local trashcans in most cities, or take it to your own home. And finally, what is a lot of people but many individuals. If one person can not make a difference, my blog post would not be worth the effort to put up. The reasons the public try to throw on littering is not justifiable.(For a complete list of reasons people say they litter click [here](#).)

It's very simple too, keeping us litter free, and I'm sure the folks of Keeping America Beautiful(KAB) can agree with me too saying:



Animated Litter Bug

“**What can I do to stop litter?**

So glad you asked! Here are a few ideas:

- First, don't litter.”

while listing a few steps of stopping littering. Cutting off more littering is although, is just one step to “Keeping America Beautiful” , the awareness also will need to be raised of the topic, spreading through the world and reaching every person, and one way of doing that is by imitating a variety of blog posting like mine. Then perhaps, with the start of this blog, we can hope to end littering all together. Until then however, I am going to keep my work going , digging deeper into this topic, for the next post I am hoping to address how much it would actually require to encourage people to get out with me, to work and clean up the cities, and more importantly, why aren't they going

out to do so now? One of the bigger topics for the next post will be the switch to recycling, and how we may benefit or not benefit from its usage, so be sure to check back in for that.



Sources:

<https://docs.google.com/a/scienceleadership.org/document/d/1zG5CB1tUUGQQpByVprFEOKM-PWDNx9DKRWXHqYivf36c/edit>