

Winning Essays
Grade 6-8

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First Place 6-8
Grade 7
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What Recycling Means to Me

Recycling, from my point of view, is something you have to promise to yourself and to your planet what you are going to do in order to help the earth. You are committing to yourself that you are going to recycle every single can and bottle, and you are also decomposing fruits and vegetables. In addition to recycling, you can make greener choices, such as driving a hybrid car. Because you want a better planet, you are influencing other to become greener also. All and all, recycling can mean various ideas, depending on you.

Commitment is a notably difficult promise to withhold, especially if you are going to make it a lifelong duty. But think about how the world will be if we keep trashing it. You need to make a change NOW. Keep encouraging yourself that it is not only for your benefit but for all living things on this planet. You will be a hero saving not only people, but the whole world! One of my golden rules is not just thinking about what you are going to do, but actually manifesting it. For example, carpooling instead of using multiple cars is a fuel-efficient and moneywise way to save the world. Saving plastic and aluminum cans and bottles, then dispatching them to your local collection center is also a green idea. Going to a trash dump and turning old junk into beautiful art or useful tools is an excellent way to recycle. Remember, being creative is a major factor in thinking green!

If you are someone who thinks that you need to do more, then become an inspiration. Explain to children that the earth is going to become an awful place to live in if we don't change our foul habits. Influence adolescences to volunteer in committees and make a miracle come true. And you can make a change by planning groups to go on strike until the polluting companies are awed by your bravery. You are the person that will change what you want in the world.

Recycling means that you are making a difference by changing your bad habits and turning them into a better, greener routine. Not that you have to entirely change your lifestyle, you only need to make better decisions to help make the world a better place for our next generation. It also means you are not trashing or wasting, but being creative about your trash. By being more aware about how you're being untidy, you can make better decisions by putting you planet first. In conclusion, if you haven't recycled yet, what are you waiting for? Take some soda cans and send them to your local collection system!

Giselle Garingan

Second Place 6-8

Grade 8

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There's No Space for Your Waste: The Importance of Recycling

"Nature," said John Morley, 1st Viscount Morley of Blackburn, "in her most dazzling aspects or stupendous parts, is but the background and theater of the tragedy of man." Some people don't recognize nature's beauty and don't participate in reducing, reusing or recycling everyday objects. Of the three, I think recycling is the easiest deed to do. To me, recycling means saving our environment, putting aside money for better things, and creating a healthier, more promising future for the precious years to come.

To me, recycling means protecting our environment. How does recycling protect our environment? First, recycling saves the natural resources our earth so kindly gives us, including water, plants and land. If we recycle, we cut back on our usage of these needful things. For instance, when we recycle paper, it helps save trees and water. Second, recycling saves landfill space for the trash that unfortunately belongs there. We Americans create more and more piles of junk every year, so it is important to save space. Third, recycling is as important as keeping hungry children fed. Lastly, as the Chinese proverb goes, "Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a songbird will come." To help protect our environment, we must recycle.

If all Americans recycle, we would save money for the issues that need help. How does recycling save money? First of all, digging new landfills in the middle of nowhere is expensive. If the recyclables are not included in the filled land, less money would be used to make extra landfills. Next, recycling saves energy. Less energy is used to make something from recycled items and more energy is used to make that same thing from new items. By using less energy, we use less money. For example, making recycled soda cans uses 95% less energy than making new soda cans. Third, recycling to save money is as brilliant as the shine of sunshine! Finally, as Mahatma Gandhi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Everyone should recycle to help the world. In my opinion, recycling means saving money.

Recycling can mean having a better future. What does recycling have to do with the future? First, recycling can preserve natural resources for tomorrow's generation to use, so they will be able to live life with no panic. Secondly, recycling can give jobs to those who need one. People can be material sorters, truck drivers, or chemists for example. Also, recycling and the future go together like peanut butter and jelly. Lastly, as Oprah Winfrey said, "When I look into the future, it's so bright it burns my eyes." For an improved future that will make everyone happy, we need to recycle.

In my opinion, the meaning of recycling is reserving our environment, saving money for better things and building a guaranteed future. Recycling helps protect the earth. I learned that there are many benefits to recycling. I hope others learn the importance of saving our planet.

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Third Place 6-8
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What Does Recycling Mean to Me?

Recycling means helping the environment. Here are some ways recycling helps: stop global warming, keeps oceans clean, and stops trees from getting cut down. Aren't those some good ways recycling helps? I think so!

Recycling helps stop global warming by keeping contaminants from reaching the earth's atmosphere. Global warming is when the world gets too hot because you can't dispose of the trash, or maybe there's too much gasoline, hairspray, and fossil fuel in the air. Global warming can cause the glaciers to melt and that could cause the oceans to rise 200 feet or more, which means low land (like Venice, Italy) would get flooded. Recycling stops global warming from happening. If we could reuse plastics, papers and cardboards instead of throwing it away in the garbage mountain, it will reduce the contamination caused by trash that stays on that garbage mountain.

Another way recycling is important is that it keeps the oceans, seas and lakes clean. You see if there's no recycling, or very little, part of all that trash goes in the ocean. This will pollute all the creatures that live in the ocean, and it could kill them. If we don't take care of the oceans, seas and lakes, pretty soon we won't be able to enjoy them anymore. We also won't be able to swim because the pollution would be so bad for our health. All that contamination will get in our bodies and that will cause us to get very sick. It is important to take care of our water because our sea creatures will live for a long time and we will be healthy.

In conclusion, recycling means to help the environment. Why? Because it helps stop global warming, keeps the oceans clean and it stops the trees from getting cut down. Do you know how hard life would be living in an unhealthy world because the pollution that travels through the air? So remember to recycle because it helps us in many ways. That's what recycling means to me.