

Winning Essays
Grades 9-12
(No third place winner this year.)

Jordan Badion
First Place 9-12
Grade 9
Tennyson High School

Our world is not perfect, it has many problems and one of them is recycling. There's litter on the streets, in the water, almost everywhere because not everyone recycles. But it's not all bad. Some people make money off of what we think is trash, and some artists use what we think is junk for their art pieces. That's why, to me, recycling is more than just saving the environment, its also about a way of life.

Recycling is how some people make extra cash. You may see homeless people carrying bags of cans, and you might wonder why. The reason is that you can get money for recycling cans. So when you see a person with a bag or cart full of cans, just remember that they are saving the environment, maybe even more than you.

Getting cash isn't the only reason why you recycle though, it should be for getting the feeling of helping of helping out someone or something. That means community service. Picking up trash is a way of serving the community; it helps our neighborhood and the world. The good part is the feeling of helping. Another way of recycling is to reuse stuff. I was watching TV the other day and I saw that millions of plastic bottles are used each hour of everyday. I think that is just crazy. So we should resuse bottles, boxes, and paper, instead of wasting them all. That's a big way of saving the environment.

If you think that recycling is no fun at all and it's boring, then you're wrong because there's ways to make it fun. Artists prove that recycling can be fun. They make art pieces out of recyclables. They use our trash to make art and I think that's a smart way of recycling. One man's trash is another man's treasure.

To me, recycling is about saving the environment, saving a life, and creating art. All these ways help me realize that more can come out of recycling and there's more meaning to it than just throwing bottles into a bag. Some people may say that it's only about saving the environment, but people need to realize that there's more to recycling.

Sarahi Bautista
Second Place 9-12
Grade 9
Mt. Eden High School

"What we are living with is the result of human choices and it can be changed by making better, wiser choices." –Robert Redford

It is the year 2008, and over time our world has changed drastically. We have heard a lot of things that can change our lives and habits, like global warming, extinct species, and the planet that we are giving to future generations. But there are answers to these problems. One of them is recycling.

Many people have the belief that recycling is “dumb,” that it doesn’t make any change and that’s why they don’t do anything about it. But recycling does help! Take two points to think about... when you recycle plastic, glass and cans, you are helping the environment by letting things be reused and not thrown in to make more waste. Plus, sometimes you get paid when you recycle!

“Recycling is good for the bottle and good for the can.”

“Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run your TV for three hours.” –Reynolds Metal Co.

Recycling helps our environment. By recycling we can pick up so much litter left in our cities and our surrounding, making them look cleaner.

“‘Solid Wastes’ are the discarded leftovers of our advanced consumer society. This growing mountain of garbage and trash represents not only an attitude of indifference toward valuable natural resources, but also a serious economic and public health problem.” –Jimmy Carter

Recycling is a great way to lend a hand to this planet that little by little, without our notice and consent, we are hurting. We can all make a difference if only we try to and encourage more people too.

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” - Mahatma Gandhi

Recycling isn’t a hard thing to do so why shouldn’t we try to make a difference?