The following is an article about recycling. You will read both the pro and con side of the issue and then complete the assignments related to the article. You will submit this article by the end of class.

After it is finished, you need to read. You may also update your independent reading log.

Your teacher will allow you to check out a book after the assignment is completed and submitted.

You must have a book of your own in class on Monday, so you must check out a book if you don’t have one. The “speed reads” are available to check out even if you have overdue books. I repeat, every student must have a book in class on Monday.

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PRO/CON: Should we stop recycling our trash?

By Tribune News Service, adapted by Newsela staff 01.04.16

**PRO: It costs too much money to recycle**

**ABOUT THE WRITER William F. Shughart II is the research director of the Independent Institute, 100 Swan Place, Oakland, Calif. He is also the J. Fish Smith Professor in Public Choice at Utah State University’s Huntsman School of Business.**

You may want to save the planet. The best way to help is to make sure your garbage is buried in a giant garbage dump called a landfill. They have plenty of room for garbage.

People talk about “reduce, reuse, recycle.” What they mean is, first, do not use more than you need. Second, use things more than once. Finally, you should recycle. It sounds like a good idea.

There is a problem, though. Recycling costs too much money.

**Paper and Plastic and Glass**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is part of the government. It is in charge of protecting the environment. The EPA says it makes sense to recycle only some garbage. In fact, it says only about one-third of all garbage should be recycled. Recycling any more costs too much, the EPA says.

Recycling paper is expensive. Paper is made out of trees. Paper companies pay for the trees they use. Then, new trees have to be planted. It costs money. Yet making new paper is still cheaper than recycling it.

Plastic is another problem. Plastic is made out of oil. The price of oil has gotten much cheaper. Now, it costs less money to make a new plastic container than to recycle an old one.

Glass is even worse. The old glass has to be collected by truck. Recycling trucks cause pollution. Melting it down to make recycled glass causes pollution, too. Recycling glass is more expensive than making it from scratch. New glass is made mainly from sand and there is plenty of that.

Recycling has good parts and bad parts. Government officials should think about both. Then, they should end programs that waste money and hurt the environment.

Here is a test. Will anyone pay you to recycle? If it made money, companies would be offering you money for your trash. Do not believe what you are told about recycling. It is probably just a bunch of garbage.

**CON: Recycling is still the way to go**

**ABOUT THE WRITER: Michael Kraft is a retired political science and public and environmental affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Readers may write him at UWGB, 2420 Nicolet Dr., MAC B310, Green Bay, WI 54311 or e-mail him at kraftm@uwgb.edu**

We Americans use a lot of stuff. We also throw out a lot. We dump far more trash than we need. The trash gets dumped into giant landfills. Americans make twice as much trash as people in Europe.

Since 1960, we have thrown out more and more garbage. Since that year, the amount has gone up three times. In 2013, we threw out more than 508 billion pounds. Each person threw out 4.4 pounds every day.

We have gotten a lot better at handling garbage. People began recycling more about 30 years ago. Now, we in America recycle about one-third of what we use.

**We Can Do Better**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a government department. It reports that we recycle many batteries, paper and cans. Yet we do not recycle as much of other things. We should recycle more cellphones and computers. We should also recycle more glass and plastic bottles and jars.

We should be able to do much better than this. So why are we not? Some people just do not want to do it or think it is hard. Some states say people have to recycle. They have laws about this, but people do not really follow the laws.

Some states and cities do much better. They take recycling seriously. One of those cities is Seattle, Washington. In Seattle, people pay to throw out garbage.  The more garbage they throw out, the more they pay. It works. Half of Seattle recycles.

Some people see it differently. They argue that recycling costs too much money.

Should we recycle only if it is cheap enough? Doing that sends the wrong message.

Some experts say companies should not waste stuff when things are being made. When the companies make things, they should be careful not to use extra stuff. Then, they do not have to throw out as much.

An important change is starting. This change will cut down on garbage and pollution from when things are made until they are thrown away. It will also get people to change what they use and throw out. That is the way to go.

1. After reading both articles, summarize the central ideas of the PRO and CON articles (below).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PRO | CON |

1. Identify one claim for each article that was made by the author but not supported by evidence (ie. Opinion, not supported by facts)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PRO | CON |

1. **In the PRO article, the author is explaining:**

**My answer is : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A**

the reasons why people should reuse more things

**B**

the reasons why recycling is not a good choice

**C**

the reasons why people should recycle more things

**D**

the reasons why many people do not recycle

1. **In the CON article, what does the author think about people in Seattle?**

**My answer is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A**

They waste too much stuff.

**B**

They do a good job recycling.

**C**

They spend too much money on recycling.

**D**

They don't understand why recycling is important.

1. **In the PRO article, what information supports the author's idea that people should not recycle?**

**My answer is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A**

Some people think that the best place for garbage in a giant garbage dump.

**B**

Paper companies have to plant new trees when they use trees to make paper.

**C**

Some groups say that only one third of all garbage should be recycled.

**D**

It costs less to make a new plastic container than to recycle an old one.

1. **In the CON article, why does the author include these sentences?**

We should be able to do much better than this. So why are we not? Some people just do not want to do it or think it is hard.

**A**

to explain the reason for a problem

**B**

to explain what will happen in the future

**C**

to compare two different ideas

**D**

to explain a cause and then an effect

1. Write a message to either the author of the PRO letter or to the author of the CON letter showing support for or arguing against their ideas. Use the back of this page for your letter.
* Argumentative letters should argue against the author’s stated ideas.
* Supportive letters should restate the author’s ideas that you support.
* Letter should contain your opinion (your feelings about the subject, for instance) as well as facts.
* Author’s names are contained at the end of each letter/article

|  |
| --- |
| 2/24/2017(add name and address or contact information here)NameStreetCity, StateDear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_body of letter following directions aboveSincerely,(your name) |