

2024 Earth Day Writing Contest

Grade 6 Functional Writing Prompt

Section II: Functional Writing (Suggested time - 40 min)

Read the situation below and complete the assignment that follows.

The situation:

Your name is Avery Greene and you are a student taking an environmental sciences class. Recently, a guest speaker joined your classroom and delivered a presentation about pollution. You took notes during the presentation, which may be found at the bottom of this page. You learned about waste, including plastic, and the effect that it has on our environment. The speaker inspired you, and you decided you would like to make a change in how sustainably your family lives.

Assignment:

Write a news article for your school newspaper, informing your schoolmates about how they can make sustainable changes in their use of plastics.

When writing your letter:

- be sure to include a paragraph explaining why the issues you picked are the most important
- use a style of writing appropriate for a news article
- you may use as few or as many of the notes below as you would like, but you may also include appropriate information you find in your own research

Pollution Presentation Notes

- The world produces 430 million tonnes of plastic every year
- The most common plastic garbage includes: food wrappers, bottles, bags, and straws
- Plastic litter can harm our wildlife
- Plastic waste can take up to 500 years to decompose - but it never disappears, it just gets smaller and smaller.
- Plastic is man-made; it does not exist in nature
- More than 40% of plastic waste is only used only once before being thrown away
- Recyclable plastic can be recycled 2-3 times, but not all types of plastic can be recycled.
- Glass and metal can be recycled infinite times
- Plastic must be cleaned before it can be recycled - we have to rinse food off first!
- Recycled plastic can be made into many things: clothing, furniture, carpet, bottles, and more!
- Scientists are finding ways to make plastic from biodegradable materials

Biodegradable: an item that can be broken down into smaller and smaller pieces, and absorbed back into the environment without causing pollution.