

“Ethics” Essay Contest

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Rotary Club of Peachtree City

Winning Essays:

1st Place: Dani Gray Teacher: Mrs. Bernard

**Honorable Mention: Brooke Winters
 Taylor Price
 Alexander Paparo**

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Kristin Berryman, Principal

Dani Gray

Peachtree City Elementary

Mrs. Bernard, Teacher

CHEMICAL POLLUTION

“Ugh! Another weed!” You grab the weed killer and spray, but do you realize what it is doing to the environment? Or how about that car gas? Hello! Air pollution! And the oil the animals get stuck in and get sick on? We don’t realize it but every careless choice we make is affecting the world!

We have all heard of the goog puddy, GACK. It has dangerous chemicals in it that when a five year old leaves it outside an animal may eat it and get terribly sick. And certain bug sprays will do more than kill the bug (like, oh I don’t, kill the plants)! How about hair spray? It can suffocate some animals if used improperly.

Instead of blabbing about these problems, I am going to say how to fix them. First of all don’t be lazy, if you have weeds pick them by hand. Instead of cars, learn to ride a bike. In fact, less cars! And forget GACK! Also be more careful with your bug spray. And ladies, do us all a favor and limit the hair chemicals!

So next time you reach for the week killer, remember our planet! Instead pick the weeds.

Score for Mother Nature and You!

Thanks again.

Earth and Dani

Brooke Winters

Peachtree City Elementary

Water Pollution Essay

Dear Rotary Club,

How serious do you think water pollution is? It is a severe problem that is occurring all around the globe. I believe I have a way to stop it, starting in our community.

Did you know that 40% of rivers and 46% of lakes in the United States are too polluted for aquatic activity? In many areas the water quality is too poor for fishing, swimming and aquatic life. Many bodies of fresh water are too polluted for drinking as well. This is not only a problem for the United States, but half of the world. What's the source of all this pollution? It is a fact that 1.2 trillion gallons of industrial waste are discharged into United States waterways annually. Can't they stop dumping sewage?

Oil and water don't mix. Oil is very bad for water ecosystems. It can blanket the surface covering any marine wildlife that may come up. Why is it harmful? Any animal that has fur or feathers can catch hypothermia, a disease that occurs when an animal's natural defense against the cold is taken away. Oil affects fish too. Oil remains can poison the water they breathe. How does all this oil get in the water in the first place? Unfortunately, sometimes when oil companies transfer oil, the rigs that carry it leak or explode. An example of this is when the Transocean Oil Rig exploded in 2010. Eleven workers were killed and

the accident also damaged the Gulf of Mexico coast, becoming one of the biggest environmental disasters in history. Fortunately researchers have come up with a solution. They have created a better rig that has a separate tanks and an extra hull around each one. Now oil is less likely to poison the water. Thank you researchers!

There are ways to fight water pollution. In fact, there are many. You can recycle trash so it becomes something useful instead of floating on a pond. After all, only 1 of 6 bottles actually get recycled. You can also use biodegradable material to make your own compost. One other way is to use ecofriendly plastic products and appliances. It's good for nature!

I believe that water pollution is something that can be fixed with some work. Why are you till reading? It's time to take action!

Taylor Price

Peachtree City Elementary

Mrs. Bernard, Teacher

POLLUTION

Have you ever left a light on by accident and didn't turn it off until you got back from a long vacation? Well this is using up energy. Some people think that leaving lights on and using energy isn't bad but it is and this is why.

Using energy is bad because generators that give you that energy are powered by coal. How can coal hurt anything? Well coal is bad because when it is mined it releases a kind of gas that can hurt fish. Imagine never being able to go to an aquarium again just because you left your lights on. Pretty sad, huh?

Some ways you can save energy is by, of course, turning off your lights, only use lights when needed and turning off your video game console (if you have one) when you're done. There is also one way to save energy that nobody likes and that is to take cooler showers. Energy heats up the water that you use in your shower so if you take cooler ones, you use less energy.

So like I said before, there are many ways to save energy. Next time you go on a vacation, turn off your lights and save a fish!

Peachtree City Elementary School
Alexander Paparo
Bernard

Global Warming

Bigger storms, extinction, and the polar ice caps melting, is this what you want? The effects all come from, in my opinion, the words worst environmental problem: global warming. There are many causes of this challenge and only a few solutions. So, read on and see why global warming is bad and how it can be prevented.

Boom! Bang! These are the sounds of a hurricane. Hurricanes have gotten bigger and stronger along with cyclones. The oceans have gotten hotter because of global warming and that creates hurricanes. Global warming also causes irregular weather patterns. Next, global warming causes the polar ice caps to melt. Finally, the melting polar ice slowly makes the ocean level rise.

What IS global warming? Global warming is caused by one main thing: burning fossil fuels. When you take these fossil fuels and put them in your car, they burn and create a green-house gas called carbon-dioxide. I bet right now you are wondering what is a green-house gas? A green-house gas hangs around the atmosphere and traps heat in. Now that I've told you what global warming is, let me tell you how to prevent it.

Crrrk! This is the sound of a tree being cut down in the Amazon. This event is becoming more and more common, but I bet you are wondering how this is related to global warming. Well, trees take in carbon-dioxide passed from vehicles and use it as food. More trees on earth will

produce more oxygen and will reduce carbon-dioxide. So, you can see planting trees can cut down on global warming.

I bet right now you're asking, "How can a little boy or girl like me help stop something as big as global warming?" As stated before, you could plant trees. When you are older, you can also have an electric car instead of a car that runs on gas. Hey, you could even not use paper as much to save trees. So, when you go home, remember to help prevent global warming by putting into action the examples I've given you.