

3. Inspiring Change

Picking up trash and not littering is a huge problem that is ruining our environment and its resources. A simple action of picking up trash around your house, job, or school, can make the largest difference to your community and environment. By picking up trash, you are preventing litter from clogging the land and being drawn to the wildlife. Along shores, aquatic animals think that the trash is food or shelter, which causes them to fall into a trap that can kill them. By cleaning the area around you wherever you are can help prevent the animals from finding the potentially lethal materials. The land also takes a toll from all of the litter. It can build up over time and ruin the life cycle to plants, it can be dangerous to the people in a community, and just simply looks trashy. When I was in Girl Scouts, our motto was "Leave the place cleaner than you found it." From camp site to a sit down meeting in the office, I would always look for trash that I could easily throw away so it was out of the way and taken care of properly. Another motto was and is "leave no trace." The Girl Scouts follow this rule to the utmost perfection. In a new camp site there would be no evidence that anyone was ever there, and when we left there was no evidence, so we truly would leave no trace. I know in today's society it is difficult to not leave any traces with our high tech equipment and accessories, but if there is a way in the wilderness of the mountains, then it is able to happen in the city and on the go. I would like to make my city, Lubbock, aware of the litter that is all around us. We are known for our strong winds, and when the wind blows, so does the trash. To start an area wide cleaning crew or an organization would be absolutely outstanding on helping to prevent litter. By starting the project now, it can and will provide a cleaner, safer, and more green environment for the generations to come. I would need some support from my peers

mostly. The high school I attend is constantly covered in litter, and I know that I am not alone in stopping the littering on our campus. I could get support from those of my peers that agree with me and then get our administrators involved. From there I can get my whole school district to keep the high schools a cleaner environment that will eventually spread to the whole city. Once the city is involved, there can be an organization formed for the litter. The organization can go around the city and pick up the trash and build more public trash cans for the community. The trash is truly overruling the world. From one trash can to the landfill, we are surrounded by trash that will constantly build up overtime. If it is not stopped, the environment will not be healthy or beautiful like it is now. Trash will effect the weather and causing the weather to change from good to dreadful. Smog and Acid Rain are just two examples of how not keeping our environment clean, can effect the weather. For future children that will be wishing to go out on the nice spring day, pick up your trash today to prevent it from going on to tomorrow. Any trash picked up in one day, it will not be there the next. Recycle the trash that is recyclable. And make sure there is a trashcan in your local area or neighborhood and support this idea for a cleaner future and a cleaner environment for the generations to come. One person can make a difference, and by picking up one piece of trash, the environment is one step closer to becoming cleaner. If you think that one person is not going to make a difference, look around you, you are surrounded by people who follow your actions and who look up to you. If you make a bold move, so will the people who are close to you and so will the people in your community. And remember, For every one good deed and volunteer, there are hundreds more to follow.