

Expository Essay prompts: environmental issues

1. The anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Do you believe that's true? Explain what you think a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can do to help our environment. Pick a subject of concern (animal extinction, saving the rain forest, cleaner water for all people around the world, or whatever is important to you). Explain what you believe might be the cause, and what you think we can do to make a difference.
2. It is estimated that we are losing 137 plant, animal and insect species every day due to the deforestation of rainforests. That means we are losing over 50,000 species every year. Explain the full environmental impact of deforestation of the rainforests.
3. According to the environmental website, greenupgrader.com, plastic water bottles don't begin composting for 700 years. That means if water bottles were in existence in the 1300's and someone threw one out, it would only start composting now. Does reading something like this make you think twice before buying water bottles, or does the convenience for people outweigh the environmental impact? Explain how we can convince people not to use water bottles/plastic bags/single-use plastics? Or explain the environmental impact of water bottles, or plastic bags, or single-use plastics.
4. Gasoline and diesel-powered engines are a necessary part of modern life, but they have an effect on the environment. Explain the environmental impact of the use of gas and diesel engines versus what these devices provide for society.
5. Explain how renewable energy works: solar, wind, hydro, geo-thermal, tidal, biomass. Or explain the advantages or disadvantages of renewable energy.
6. Water is life. There is the same amount of water now on Earth as when it was first created. For us, it's easy...we turn on the tap and there it is. Yet in Africa and Asia, women and children spend about 6 hours a day and walk an average of 3.7 miles a day just to collect water, according to water.org. Explain how people can conserve water.
7. Honey bees not only make honey; they also pollinate about 80% of all the fruits and vegetables that we eat. Everything from apples to zucchini is available to us because of the hard work of the honey bee. And yet, it looks as if they may be headed for extinction. Why do you think this is happening? Could it be the result of the toxic chemicals we use? Some have suggested that a possible reason is all of the cell phones and radio frequencies have caused electromagnetic interference. Explain what you believe might be the cause, and what you think we can do to keep the honey bees from becoming extinct.
8. Environmentalists all around the world have noticed changes in our physical world as a result of the pandemic. Specifically, there have been significant improvements in air quality in different cities across the world. Explain the environmental impact COVID-19 has had on the planet.