



4H Essay Contest

Grade 5

Sponsored by: **KEEP SEVIER BEAUTIFUL**

Your essay is due at your February 4H meeting. On your essay include your name, address, grade, school and the name of your teacher.

Winning essays will be announced on March 31, 2020.

INSTRUCTIONS

After reading “Art for Ocean Animals” and “Cigarette Litter” write an informative essay in which you compare and contrast the authors’ views on litter. Include information from the texts to write about the subject knowledgeably. Use details from the passages to help you write your essay. Also, remember to use correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing your essay.

Art for Ocean Animals

by Elise Jonas-Delson

What do you do when you see litter on the beach? You pick it up, of course. But artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi doesn’t throw it away. She uses the trash to create giant sculptures of marine animals. The project is called Washed Ashore and its goal is to raise awareness about the effects of littering on ocean animals.

“The first thing you need to do is get people’s attention,” Pozzi told TIME For Kids, “Giant animals tend to do this very well.”

Pozzi started Washed Ashore when she noticed plastics on the beaches in Oregon, where she lives. Plastic doesn’t break down and become absorbed by the environment. Instead, sunlight breaks it down into pieces about the size of plankton, which are tiny organisms that float in the sea. These tiny pieces of plastic enter the food chain. Sea animals eat them and end up dying. Pozzi always loved the ocean and the animals in it, and she wanted to do something to help both.

Sea Change

One of Angela’s sculptures is a turtle. The turtle’s head is an old garbage can lid. There is netting around it to show that turtles are getting caught in these nets.

Another sculpture, called Fish Bite Fish, is shaped like a fish and made out of little bits of plastic that contain tooth and claw marks from the fish and crabs that tried to devour the plastic. “We get so many pieces of plastic like this, I’m on my third Fish bite Fish sculpture,” says Pozzi.

The Sea Star figure is made of glass and plastic bottles, some of which are from the Beijing Olympics of 2008. The bottles started landing on the beaches in Oregon in 2010, and they still

are arriving. The Sea Star acts as a musical instrument. You put water in the bottles and hit them to make music.

A Helping Hand

Pozzi doesn't collect all the trash by herself. When people spot litter on beaches, they drop it off at Artula Institute for Arts and Environmental Education, in Bandon, Oregon. Then Angela and her volunteers begin the process of turning the waste into art. Everything used for the sculptures is found on the beach, except for the framework and the materials used to connect the litter together.

Who does Pozzi believe can save marine animals? "Kids have a lot of power," she told TIME For Kids. "They are the ones that can make things happen. I really believe it."

Cigarette Litter

by BoatUS Foundation

Boaters are keeping their butts out of the water-and we're not talking about the kind in swim trunks. In just the past four years the BoatUS Foundation has helped nearly 200 marinas around the country tackle the problem of cigarette litter.

The program is a partnership with Keep America Beautiful, a nationwide non-profit organization that encourages individuals to take greater responsibility for improving the environment in their local community. With funding from Phillip Morris USA – an Altria Company, RAI Services Company and Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company, Keep America Beautiful provides each marina with a \$500 cash grant to purchase the cigarette ash receptacles and signage and a supply of portable ashtrays for use on boats. Marinas are asked to install the receptacles, distribute the portable ashtrays, and educate their customers about the importance of proper disposal.

Many assume cigarette butts break down over time. However, most cigarette filters are made from a plastic-like material, cellulose acetate. When tossed overboard or washed into storm drains, creeks and waterways this material can last for decades harming fish and other wildlife.

Marina operators also like the program because it keeps their grounds clean, making the marina more attractive. Once the butt receptacles are in place, customers embrace the program. We had some participating marinas say that the amount of cigarette butts is now almost nonexistent, which helps their business and the environment.

Participants in last year's cigarette litter prevention program achieved an amazing 50% average reduction in the amount of cigarette litter, which ultimately would have ended up in the water.