



Compare/Contrast Texts

Landfills vs. Recycling

Part to Part

Introductory Information

What to do with garbage is a big issue. The average person produces over four pounds of garbage a day. That is three-quarters of a ton every year. Landfills are one way of getting rid of garbage. In a landfill the garbage is buried between layers of dirt in the ground. A landfill is like a dump. Recycling is another way of getting rid of garbage. Over the last 20 years, recycling has become a major business in the United States. Between 25% and 28% of all garbage in this country is recycled.

Landfill supporters think that recycling does not help the environment and that it also makes problems. They believe that putting garbage in landfills is better than recycling. Recycling supporters believe that recycling is the best way to get rid of garbage without hurting the environment. Landfill supporters and recycling supporters each believe that they know what is best for the environment. However, they have different opinions on many issues.

Passage

Landfill and recycling supporters have different opinions about using land to get rid of garbage. Landfill supporters believe that now is a better time than ever to use landfills. They say that America has much more space for landfills now than it did 10 years ago. They claim that there is plenty of room in landfills for the huge amounts of garbage we create. Landfill supporters also say that fast food chains are using lighter packaging and so produce less garbage now. They give the example that an average McDonalds throws away less than two ounces of garbage for each customer served. On the other hand, recycling supporters believe that landfills are a waste of space. They argue that close to 50% of the states will run out of space for landfills in 10 years. Recycling supporters think there is more packaging on food products now and that Americans are producing more garbage than ever.

Both landfill supporters and recycling supporters are concerned about toxic (poisonous) chemicals getting out into the environment. They have different opinions about whether landfills or recycling is safer. For example, they disagree about recycling of paper. Landfill supporters say that recycling can hurt the environment that it claims to protect. They say that to recycle newspaper, it is necessary to get rid of all the ink in the newspaper. Toxic chemicals are used to do this. The chemicals end up in the environment and harm plants, animals, and people. On the other hand, recycling supporters say that there are more toxic chemicals from paper made with new wood than from paper made with recycled

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material. Also, inks that are made from soybeans are becoming more popular than inks made from toxic chemicals.

People are also concerned about toxic chemicals leaking from garbage as it breaks down. Recycling supporters say that landfills usually leak. Toxic chemicals can leak out from them into the water that runs underground. These chemicals can harm plants, animals, and people nearby. Recycling supporters also say that the rotting material in landfills makes methane. This gas adds to global warming, which is hurting the environment. On the other hand, landfill supporters say that the new landfills are much safer than the older landfills.

Both landfill supporters and recycling supporters want to find the cheapest way to get rid of garbage. Landfill supporters claim that recycling programs cost taxpayers more money. They believe that recycling adds 15% to the cost of picking up and getting rid of garbage. Recycling supporters say that recycling programs cost taxpayers much less over time. Burying garbage in landfills causes leaks that will some day contaminate (poison) the water underground. They argue that it costs a lot of money to treat contaminated water in city treatment plants. Recycling supporters argue that recycling saves money in other ways too.

Landfill vs. Recycling

Whole to Whole

Introductory Information

What to do with garbage is a big issue. The average person produces over four pounds of garbage a day. That is three-quarters of a ton every year. Landfills are one way of getting rid of garbage. In a landfill the garbage is buried between layers of dirt in the ground. A landfill is like a dump. Recycling is another way of getting rid of garbage. Over the last 20 years, recycling has become a major business in the United States. Between 25% and 28% of all garbage in this country is recycled.

Landfill supporters think that recycling does not help the environment and that it also makes problems. They believe that putting garbage in landfills is better than recycling. Recycling supporters believe that recycling is the best way to get rid of garbage without hurting the environment. Landfill supporters and recycling supporters each believe that they know what is best for the environment. However, they have different opinions on many issues.

Passage

The Views of Landfill Supporters

Landfill supporters believe that now is a better time than ever to use landfills. They say that America has much more space for landfills now than it did 10 years ago. They claim that there is plenty of room in landfills for the huge amounts of garbage we create. Landfill supporters also say that fast food chains are using lighter packaging and so produce less garbage now. They give the example that an average McDonalds throws away less than two ounces of garbage for each customer served.

Landfill supporters are concerned about toxic (poisonous) chemicals getting out into the environment. They say that recycling can hurt the environment that it claims to protect. They say that to recycle newspaper, it is necessary to get rid of all the ink in the newspaper. Toxic chemicals are used to do this. The chemicals end up in the environment and harm plants, animals, and people.

Another concern is about toxic chemicals leaking from garbage as it breaks down. Landfill supporters say that the new landfills are much safer than the older landfills.

Landfill supporters want to find the cheapest way to get rid of garbage. They claim that recycling programs cost taxpayers more money. They believe that recycling adds 15% to the cost of picking up and getting rid of garbage.

The Views of Recycling Supporters

Recycling supporters believe that landfills are a waste of space. They argue that close to 50% of the states will run out of space for landfills in 10 years. Recycling supporters think there is more packaging on food products now and that Americans are producing more garbage than ever.

Recycling supporters are concerned about toxic chemicals getting out into the environment. They say that there are more toxic chemicals from paper made with new wood than from paper made with recycled material. Also, inks that are made from soybeans are becoming more popular than inks made from toxic chemicals.

Recycling supporters say that landfills usually leak. Toxic chemicals can leak into the water that runs underground. These chemicals can harm plants, animals, and people nearby. Recycling supporters also say that the rotting material in landfills makes methane. This gas adds to global warming, which is hurting the environment.

Recycling supporters want to find the cheapest way to get rid of garbage. They say that recycling programs cost taxpayers much less over time. Burying garbage in landfills causes leaks that will some day contaminate (poison) the water underground. They argue that it costs a lot of money to treat contaminated water in city treatment plants. Recycling supporters argue that recycling saves money in other ways too.

Landfills vs. Recycling Chart Using Attributes

Attributes	Landfills and Supporters' Views	Recycling and Supporters' Views
What do they want to do with garbage?	Bury it between layers of dirt in the ground	Re-use the materials to make new things
Is this a good time to use land to get rid of garbage?	Yes. There is plenty of land to use for landfills. Fast food chains are using lighter packaging and producing less garbage now.	No. It is a waste of space. Fifty percent of states will run out of land in 10 years. There is more packaging on food products and more garbage now.
Is it safer to use landfills or recycling to get rid of paper?	Landfills. Toxic chemicals are used to get rid of the ink when recycling paper.	Recycling. More toxic chemicals come from paper made from new wood vs. recycled material. In recycling, inks from soybeans rather than toxic chemicals are being used more.
Are landfills safe from leaking chemicals?	They are much safer than they used to be.	No. They usually leak toxic chemicals into the water underground and into the air.
Which way of getting rid of garbage is cheaper?	Landfills. Recycling adds 15% to the cost of picking up and getting rid of garbage.	Recycling costs much less over time because it costs much more to clean up the contamination from leaking landfills.