1.) **Research bibliography**. Compose an annotated bibliography related to your topic that includes at least five sources, two of which must be academic sources accessed through the UNC Libraries web site. In the bibliography, list the sources, and then a provide a "conversation-starter" question related to the source. The conversation-starter questions will prompt conversant to discuss key conclusions or interesting aspects of the source; it should be open-ended and focused, and not a yes-or-no question. Also identify a short quotation from the source. The quotation should also serve to further conversation. So, you will list the source, provide a question, and pick out a compelling quotation. Repeat this process for all five sources. Compose the bibliography using APA format.

2.) **Media materials**. On the same document, identify at least three media clips that you can play during your recorded conversations. If you choose a video clip, be sure that it has good audio components for the podcast. Clips should generally be around 30 seconds long, so if you pick a longer media item, be sure to identify time stamps for the segment that you want to include. In addition, compose an annotation for each entry with a conversation starter question. So, you will list the media resource, provide timestamps for the segment you might to include in the podcast, and provide a question.

What happens to plastic after it is tossed out?

1. Joyce, C. (2018). *Beer, drinking water and fish: Tiny plastic is everywhere*. Washington: NPR. Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/2090085207?pq-origsite=summon>

Christopher Joyce does a great job of going into detail about microplastics. He discusses studies done by Chelsea Rochman and how plastic works its way up in the food chain. The article focuses a lot on here and why she began her studies and interest in plastics. It also goes into detail about Clara Thaysen and her study about tracking chemicals from plastics.

Researcher Clara Thayson says, "The things we don't know," she says, are daunting. "What are all the sources where it's coming from, so that we can think about where to turn it off? And once it gets in the ocean, where does it go? Which is super-important because then we can understand how it impacts wildlife and humans," (Joyce 2018).

Why is it important to learn more about where plastic ends up?

1. Cho, R. (2012, Janurary 31). What Happens to All That Plastic? (2019, June 03). Retrieved from <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2012/01/31/what-happens-to-all-that-plastic/>

The purpose of this article is to explain what happens to plastic after it is disposed. Most of plastic ends up in landfills where it is left untouched and slowly decomposes. It also explains why the process of successfully recycling is so difficult and uncommon in our society. Cho also explains ways to convert plastics into reusable objects.

Cho explains, “ Plastic production is estimated to use [four percent](http://www.bpf.co.uk/Press/Oil_Consumption.aspx)of global oil production—both as the raw material and for energy in the manufacturing process. Because these polymers embody energy from fossil fuels (and actually have a higher energy value than coal and wood), leaving so much of it in landfills is not only an environmental hazard, it is a huge waste of a valuable resource that could be used to produce electricity, heat, or fuel,” (Cho 2012).

Why do we continue to dump the waste in landfills?

1. Dengler, R. (2017, July 19). Humans have made 8.3 billion tons of plastic. Where does it all go? Retrieved from <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/humans-made-8-3-billion-tons-plastic-go>

The article opens with statistics of how much plastic has been created and how much is planned to be created in upcoming years. It discusses wasteful practices and what is most commonly used and tossed as a plastic. What I really like about what Dengler wrote is the fact that she gave three ways that the plastic can be handled after disposal and briefly described what happens to the plastic in those processes.

“The researchers found most plastics are kept for short time periods. Despite rampant production, only 30 percent (2.5 billion metric tons) of all plastics ever made are currently being used,” (Dengler 2017).

What makes people use the one and done plastic system?

1. <https://search.proquest.com/docview/2243861272?pq-origsite=summon>

The authors of this journal do an excellent job in explaining what happens with waste in America. The other articles focus on what happens to our landfills and oceans, but this one focuses on the waste we send off to other countries and the problems they have. They do a great job in using pathos to describe a mother in Vietnam whose home is surrounded by waste. The article also goes a bit into detail about the Pacific Garbage Patch and how much waste we generate each year. It also focuses on the business side of imported waste.

“Since the China ban, America’s plastic waste has become a global hot potato, ping-ponging from country to country,” (McCormick, Bennett, Fonbuena, Kiiewski, Saracoglu 2019).

Is it better to continue to look elsewhere for disposing waste or to fix the problem ourselves?

1. Katz, C. (2019, March 7). Piling Up: How China's Ban on Importing Waste Has Stalled Global Recycling. Retrieved July 7, 2019, from <https://e360.yale.edu/features/piling-up-how-chinas-ban-on-importing-waste-has-stalled-global-recycling>

Since the last article goes over China’s ban on imported waste, I found an article that specifically focuses on it. Katz discusses China’s National Sword Policy and explains the chain reaction it has on everything else. For instance, more plastics are actually littering the environment, more garbage is burned. For the United States specifically, some cities have stopped recycling. Katz say the potential upside about this policy is that more countries will have to become less dependent on others and come up with solutions on their own.

“The recycling crisis triggered by China’s ban could have an upside, experts say, if it leads to better solutions for managing the world’s waste, such as expanding processing capacities in North America and Europe, and spurring manufacturers to make their products more easily recyclable. Above all, experts say it should be a wake-up call to the world on the need to sharply cut down on single-use plastics.”

What could be the benefits of China’s policy?

VIDEOS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6xlNyWPpB8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEEC6Z2vigU>

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900072861/paper-plastic-china-recycle-united-states-america.html>