

# **WATER POLLUTION**

## **A SAMPLE PERSUASIVE SPEECH**

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# TOPIC, THESIS AND BASIC OUTLINE

## PERSUASIVE SPEECH

### WATER POLLUTION

#### TOPICS:

- \_\_\_ School Uniforms
- \_\_\_ Human Cloning
- \_\_\_ Breast Implants
- \_\_\_ **Water pollution**
- \_\_\_ Same Sex Marriage
- \_\_\_ War in Iraq
- \_\_\_ Ritalin – Good or Bad

Make a list of topics that you are passionate about and that you can truly argue for or against. Stay away from topics that have been argued to death. For instance, topics like the death penalty, abortion, drunk driving have been written and talked about hundreds of times. Unless you have new information about these kind of topics, stay away from them and think about something that has not made it to the 5 o'clock news for weeks running. What are you passionate about?

#### TOPICS

1. School Uniforms
2. Human Cloning
3. **Water pollution**
4. Breast Implants
5. Same Sex Marriage
6. War in Iraq
7. Ritalin – Good or Bad

#### NARROW TOPIC

1. Human Cloning
2. **Water pollution**
3. Breast Implants
4. War in Iraq

#### FINAL TOPIC CHOICE

1. **Water pollution**

#### LIST OF PROBLEMS:

- \_\_\_ What is the history?
- \_\_\_ Why is it a problem?
- \_\_\_ Who does it affect?
- \_\_\_ Can you think of more questions?

When you have selected your topic, you should start a list of why your topic is a problem. Is there a history to this problem? Who does it affect? Why is it right/wrong? **Why should your audience care?** Think of more questions, your research is going to help you answer the questions.

#### SOLUTIONS:

Get ready to fill in your solutions with your research.

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# **THESIS STATEMENT AND PREVIEW OF MAIN POINTS**

## BRAINSTORMING YOUR POINT OF VIEW (P.O.V.) – THESIS STATEMENT

### **Brainstorming your thesis statement.**

I am going to share some information regarding ocean pollution with you today.

This thesis gets right to the point. However, what is not clear is which ocean? Is the speaker talking about oceans in general, or is there one specific ocean that is the focus?

### **Developing your thesis statement**

I am going to share some information regarding ocean pollution that affects our local Pacific Ocean coast.

We're getting there! Let's suppose that the speaker is really focused on our local ocean. There is still more we can do with this thesis that could bring it into sharper focus. All we need to do is change the word order. That's it!

### **Final thesis statement**

Today I'm going to share some information regarding the pollution that affects our local Pacific Ocean coastline.

Wow! Don't get frustrated, just keep working on it. You'll get the hang of it!

### **Preview of Main Points**

For a Persuasive speech it is imperative that you have a "Preview of Main Points". Think of it as an expansion of your thesis statement. Below is a basic format that might work for you. You may need to replace more than the (underlined/bracketed) words for your particular speech, but this is a straight forward, simplistic, orderly Preview format that can be "switched up" to meet your needs.

Today, we will look at (Ocean Pollution). I will discuss the history of (Ocean Pollution), (who) is affected, some of the signs of (Ocean Pollution), and why you should care. Finally, I will tell you about some (Programs/Preventions) for (Ocean Pollution).

Yes, it can be as simple as that. Once you get the hang of this format, you can try to expand or change yours in order to fit your style. However, remember you want to get to the point in a clear-cut fashion. Don't get too wordy or you will lose your audience's interest before you get to your first point.

# **BASIC OUTLINE**

## PERSUASIVE SPEECH

### WATER POLLUTION

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Hooks Ideas:**

1. Personal greeting/question. It's okay to get your audience thinking right off the bat, but don't forget to say "Hi", "Good Morning", "Good Afternoon", "Good Evening" first!
2. Startling Statements. This can be a personal experience, personal knowledge, or information you have discovered in your research.
3. Utilizing statistical information can show how big/small, represented/underrepresented the issue is. For instance, if you are claiming that too many people worry about \_\_\_\_\_, you can bring in statistics that show how small the problem really is. Similarly, if you want to show that \_\_\_\_\_ is underrepresented you can introduce statistics that show how big the problem really is and how too few people are aware of the problem.

**Thesis Statement and Preview:** What is the major purpose of the speech? What main points am I going to cover?

#### **I. Background**

##### **A. What is Ocean Pollution?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

##### **B. How many people are affected by Ocean Pollution?**

1. One
2. Two

#### **II. Causes of Ocean Pollution**

- A.
- B.

#### **III. What are some of the Signs of Water Pollution**

- A.
- B.

#### **IV. Programs/Prevention**

- A.
- B.

#### **CONCLUSION**

1. List key points.
2. Leave audience with something to think about.

# ACTUAL STUDENT SPEECH

Elizabeth Armstrong

## Introduction

Good afternoon class. I would like all of you who are comfortable to close your eyes for a moment while I paint a mental image for you. Picture a perfect, sunny summer afternoon. There is a light breeze blowing, and the beach is calling to you. You pack up a basket full of goodies, your sunscreen, and a blanket, and head down to the beach. You park your car, get out, and to your surprise, there are signs posted everywhere telling you that the beach is closed indefinitely. There is trash floating up with the current as the waves hit the shore. A stench of raw sewage makes its way into your nostrils. You are so disgusted you can't even believe this is your beach. You may all open your eyes now.

I am going to share some information regarding ocean pollution with you today. First, I am going to cover various aspects of the problem of ocean pollution, including the history and extent of the problem, the effects, and why it is wrong to let it continue. Second, I am going to offer solutions to the problem of ocean pollution, including what has been done to date, why it hasn't worked, and what I suggest can be done now and into the future. Third, I am going to finish up with an overall summary of my main points and an appeal to your consciences.

## I. The Problem

### A. History of the Problem

Water pollution is the presence of any foreign substance in water which tends to degrade the quality so as to constitute a hazard or impair the usefulness of water, as defined by the U.S. Public Health Service. Before man inhabited the earth, nature had natural processes that acted to remove pollutants, such as photosynthesis and bacterial degradation, and although these processes still occur today, pollution is being created more quickly than nature can restore balance. According to Stephen Morton, author of **Water Pollution- Causes and Cures**, the advent of man created major water pollution problems that nature's self-purification processes could not cope with, including man's extreme numbers and the production of new synthetic substances that naturally occurring bacteria do not find particularly edible.

### B. Extent of the Problem

From the natural balance that nature maintained before man up through today, ocean pollution has increased dramatically; so much so that the pollution levels could end all life as we know it on earth, as stated by Carl Strandberg in his book **Water Pollution, Causes, Mechanisms, Solutions**. The Pacific Ocean specifically receives pollutants from land and from harbors. Most pollutants are derived from land, either from water runoff after a rainfall event or from trash making its way into the ocean via rain gutters. Pollutants that come from the harbors include discharges rich in nitrogen that contribute to a rapid growth of plankton, aka red tide.

### C. Effect

The American Medical Association has cited eight consequences of water pollution. Some of these are:

1. Poisoning of man and animals
2. Detrimental effects on aquatic life
3. Creation of objectionable odors and unsightliness

4. Impairment of shellfish culture
5. Destruction of aesthetic values

The introduction of wastes that are not biodegradable is causing a huge problem for aquatic life. Fish and marine mammals get entangled in debris and can no longer swim, or eat debris that blocks their digestive tracts and leads them to believe they are full when they are not.

Toxic waters lead to toxic fish, especially shellfish, that when eaten can cause health risks to humans. And according to the book **Wastes in Marine Environments**, commercial shellfish harvests from roughly 1/3 of the productive areas are limited because of actual or potential contamination. This limited harvest causes a negative impact on the fishermen and a decrease in jobs.

Marine plants act to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and to produce oxygen. As these plants are destroyed, carbon dioxide will build up and less oxygen will be produced. Given that humans are dependent on oxygen to survive, just imagine the long-term effects of that.

D. Why Is It Wrong to Let it Continue

The earth is a balanced ecosystem, with every component dependent on every other. When one part is damaged, it leads to damage for the whole. We cannot destroy the oceans without affecting the air, the land, and ourselves.

E. Why Should We Care

Aside from purely selfish reasons of wanting to be able to swim in the ocean without fear of getting sick, being able to recreationally surf, wakeboard, or water ski, or enjoying seafood that at one time was heralded for its nutritional qualities, it is important to maintain a broader view of the impact of our actions on future generations. Although we inhabit the earth for a relatively short time, there are continuously new people being brought onto the earth who are dependent upon it for their time here. It is wrong for us to destroy the gift that we have been given, and to take that gift away from our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

## II. Solution

A. What Has Been Done to Date

As stated by Donald E. Carr, as it is now, each state has its own set of standards for water cleanliness. There is no large scale government control. Grassroots organizations such as Oceana and Greenpeace have attempted to spread the word about the negative effects we are creating for the environment.

B. Why Hasn't It Worked

There is resistance within our country to allow the government control over too many aspects of our lives. However, it does appear that there needs to be a larger scale attempt at curbing the ocean pollution problem.

Business is money, and as long as people are willing to pay money to dump their wastes into the waters, there are people who are willing to take that money and look the other way. There need to be some serious consequences put in place to dissuade those people who are so influenced by the power of money.

The grassroots organizations are not large-scale enough, and do not have the financial backing needed to reach the masses.

C. What Is Your Solution

My solution to the problem of ocean pollution is two-fold.

First, I think environmental education should be a part of the curriculum for every school system across the country. It can be integrated at the elementary and middle school levels, and can culminate in a test that needs to be taken before graduation from high school. It need not be an extremely demanding test; just something to increase environmental awareness.

D. What Will It Do

The solutions that I pose would educate people and take away the excuse of “I didn’t know.” Knowing is half the battle.

E. Why Will It Work

I think my solution will work because I believe that people are inherently good people. If taught well and given as much information as possible, I believe that people have a stronger tendency to make the right decision than to make the wrong one. I also believe that the threat of not having a world to live in is a strong motivator.

F. What Specifically Can We Do To Help

First and foremost, if you are a person who litters, STOP!

If you are not, and are concerned about your environment and what you can do to help, get involved in your community by picking up trash that you see on your street. Use trashcans. Arrange and/or attend beach clean-ups. Educate yourselves. If you see someone litter, call them out on it; don’t just look the other way. Pick up whatever they dropped and say, “Excuse me, I think you dropped something.” It is important to remember that we are all in this together, and that taking the attitude of “it’s not my problem” is going to get us nowhere. Take charge of your actions, and help out where others are lacking. The world will be a much better place for it.

## Conclusion

Today I shared with you information regarding ocean pollution, including the causes of the problem, the effects of the problem, and some things you can do to help.

Remember back to my introduction when I asked you all to close your eyes, and I painted a mental picture of the beach for you. That is one possible future for our beaches. But instead, please close your eyes one more. Picture a perfect, sunny summer afternoon. There is a light breeze blowing, and the beach is calling to you. You pack up a basket full of goodies, your sunscreen, and a blanket, and head down to the beach. You park your car, get out, and feel the warm rays of the sun hitting your cheeks. Children are splashing in the ocean, there is a volleyball game being played off in the distance, and you can’t wait to lay down that blanket and feel the warmth of the sand on your toes this is happiness!

Remember, individually we have the ability to make a positive impact on the earth for future generations to come if we all put those individual efforts together into one big group effort, we may see beaches more beautiful than we ever imagined.

# ACTUAL STUDENT SPEECH WITH EVALUATION

Elizabeth Armstrong

The main items missing here are: The TYPE of speech and the TOPIC.

Persuasive Speech  
Water Pollution  
By: Elizabeth Armstrong

Use **bold text** for each section

Introduction

Don't forget about your formatting. You should indicate that what is coming next is your hook(s).

**Hook(s):**

Good afternoon class. I would like all of you who are comfortable to close your eyes for a moment while I paint a mental image for you. Picture a perfect, sunny summer afternoon. There is a light breeze blowing, and the beach is calling to you. You pack up a basket full of goodies, your sunscreen, and a blanket, and head down to the beach. You park your car, get out, and to your surprise, there are signs posted everywhere telling you that the beach is closed indefinitely. There is trash floating up with the current as the waves hit the shore. A stench of raw sewage makes its way into your nostrils. You are so disgusted you can't even believe this is your beach. You may all open your eyes now.

- **This is a GREAT visualization!**
- **Can you think of another hook? How about the last reported beach closure due to pollution?**

Don't forget to show that the next section is your thesis.

**Thesis:**

- **Your Thesis should be 1 or 2 sentences long. Think about the main objective of your speech.**



## Preview of Main Points:

I am going to share some information regarding ocean pollution with you today. First, I am going to cover various aspects of the problem of ocean pollution, including the history and extent of the problem, the effects, and why it is wrong to let it continue. Second, I am going to offer solutions to the problem of ocean pollution, including what has been done to date, why it hasn't worked, and what I suggest can be done now and into the future. Third, I am going to finish up with an overall summary of my main points and an appeal to your consciences.

- **This is a very effective Preview of Main Points – a little long, but effective. This Preview encompasses everything that will be covered in the speech in a clear fashion.**
- **Don't forget to Transition to your first point. For example:**

### **I'm going to talk about the History of the Problem first.**

## II. The Problem

### A. History of the Problem

Water pollution is the presence of any foreign substance in water which tends to degrade the quality so as to constitute a hazard or impair the usefulness of water, as defined by the U.S. Public Health Service. Before man inhabited the earth, nature had natural processes that acted to remove pollutants, such as photosynthesis and bacterial degradation, and although these processes still occur today, pollution is being created more quickly than nature can restore balance. According to Stephen Morton, author of **Water Pollution- Causes and Cures**, the advent of man created major water pollution problems that nature's self-purification processes could not cope with, including man's extreme numbers and the production of new synthetic substances that naturally occurring bacteria do not find particularly edible.

### C. Extent of the Problem

From the natural balance that nature maintained before man up through today, ocean pollution has increased dramatically; so much so that the pollution levels could end all life as we know it on earth, as stated by Carl Strandberg in his book **Water Pollution, Causes, Mechanisms, Solutions**. The Pacific Ocean specifically receives pollutants from land and from harbors. Most pollutants are derived from land, either from water runoff after a rainfall event or from trash making its way into the ocean via rain gutters. Pollutants that come from the harbors include discharges rich in nitrogen that contribute to a rapid growth of plankton, aka red tide.

### D. Effect

The American Medical Association has cited eight consequences of water pollution. Some of these are:

1. Poisoning of man and animals
2. Detrimental effects on aquatic life
3. Creation of objectionable odors and unsightliness
4. Impairment of shellfish culture
5. Destruction of aesthetic values

The introduction of wastes that are not biodegradable is causing a huge problem for aquatic life. Fish and marine mammals get entangled in debris and can no longer swim, or eat debris that blocks their digestive tracts and leads them to believe they are full when they are not.

Toxic waters lead to toxic fish, especially shellfish, that when eaten can cause health risks to humans. And according to the book **Wastes in Marine Environments**, commercial shellfish harvests from roughly 1/3 of the productive areas are limited because of actual or potential contamination. This limited harvest causes a negative impact on the fishermen and a decrease in jobs.

Marine plants act to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and to produce oxygen. As these plants are destroyed, carbon dioxide will build up and less oxygen will be produced. Given that humans are dependent on oxygen to survive, just imagine the long-term effects of that.

E. Why Is It Wrong to Let it Continue

The earth is a balanced ecosystem, with every component dependent on every other. When one part is damaged, it leads to damage for the whole. We cannot destroy the oceans without affecting the air, the land, and ourselves.

F. Why Should We Care

Aside from purely selfish reasons of wanting to be able to swim in the ocean without fear of getting sick, being able to recreationally surf, wakeboard, or water ski, or enjoying seafood that at one time was heralded for its nutritional qualities, it is important to maintain a broader view of the impact of our actions on future generations. Although we inhabit the earth for a relatively short time, there are continuously new people being brought onto the earth who are dependent upon it for their time here. It is wrong for us to destroy the gift that we have been given, and to take that gift away from our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

- **Points A, B, D, And E should be formatted like C. There are several reasons for this.**
- **The first reason is that you can physically see HOW MANY points you are covering.**
- **The second reason is that it is helpful when you are delivering your speech. If you get nervous or lose your train of thought, it is a lot easier to look down at a speech that is broken down; rather than, to look at a speech that resembles a book.**

Again, you want to make sure you use a transition that introduces your next phase – Solution.

- **I have told you about the problem. Now I'm going to tell you some solutions.**

### III. Solution

#### B. What Has Been Done to Date

As stated by Donald E. Carr, as it is now, each state has its own set of standards for water cleanliness. There is no large scale government control. Grassroots organizations such as Oceana and Greenpeace have attempted to spread the word about the negative effects we are creating for the environment.

#### C. Why Hasn't It Worked

There is resistance within our country to allow the government control over too many aspects of our lives. However, it does appear that there needs to be a larger scale attempt at curbing the ocean pollution problem.

Business is money, and as long as people are willing to pay money to dump their wastes into the waters, there are people who are willing to take that money and look the other way. There need to be some serious consequences put in place to dissuade those people who are so influenced by the power of money.

The grassroots organizations are not large-scale enough, and do not have the financial backing needed to reach the masses.

#### D. What Is Your Solution

My solution to the problem of ocean pollution is two-fold.

First, I think environmental education should be a part of the curriculum for every school system across the country. It can be integrated at the elementary and middle school levels, and can culminate in a test that needs to be taken before graduation from high school. It need not be an extremely demanding test; just something to increase environmental awareness.

#### E. What Will It Do

The solutions that I pose would educate people and take away the excuse of "I didn't know." Knowing is half the battle.

#### F. Why Will It Work

I think my solution will work because I believe that people are inherently good people. If taught well and given as much information as possible, I believe that people have a stronger tendency to make the right decision than to make the wrong one. I also believe that the threat of not having a world to live in is a strong motivator.

#### G. What Specifically Can We Do To Help

First and foremost, if you are a person who litters, STOP!

If you are not, and are concerned about your environment and what you can do to help, get involved in your community by picking up trash that you see on your street. Use trashcans. Arrange and/or attend beach clean-ups. Educate yourselves. If you see someone litter, call them out on it; don't just look the other way. Pick up whatever they dropped and say, "Excuse me, I think you dropped something." It is important to remember that we are all in this together, and that taking the attitude of "it's not my problem" is going to get us nowhere. Take charge of your actions, and help out where others are lacking. The world will be a much better place for it.

- **Like it was pointed out earlier in this speech, you should break A through F down. You don't want your speech to read like a book.**

## Conclusion

Today I shared with you information regarding ocean pollution, including the causes of the problem, the effects of the problem, and some things you can do to help.

Remember back to my introduction when I asked you all to close your eyes, and I painted a mental picture of the beach for you. That is one possible future for our beaches. But instead, please close your eyes one more. Picture a perfect, sunny summer afternoon. There is a light breeze blowing, and the beach is calling to you. You pack up a basket full of goodies, your sunscreen, and a blanket, and head down to the beach. You park your car, get out, and feel the warm rays of the sun hitting your cheeks. Children are splashing in the ocean, there is a volleyball game being played off in the distance, and you can't wait to lay down that blanket and feel the warmth of the sand on your toes this is happiness!

Remember, individually we have the ability to make a positive impact on the earth for future generations to come if we all put those individual efforts together into one big group effort, we may see beaches more beautiful than we ever imagined.

- **This is a nice conclusion. However, does it really call the audience “to act”? A call to action is something like “challenging” your audience to act. Give your audience more than a beautiful picture to imagine – give them a reason that matches the purpose of your speech.**
- **Proof read your paper. This can never be stressed enough. Small grammatical errors can throw you off if you need to refer to your copy. Also, you will most likely lose out on points if your instructor grades on grammar too.**

# FINAL SAMPLE SPEECH

Persuasive Speech

Water Pollution

## **Introduction:**

## **Hook(s):**

Good afternoon class. I would like all of you who are comfortable to close your eyes for a moment while I paint a mental image for you. Picture a perfect, sunny summer afternoon. There is a light breeze blowing, and the beach is calling to you. You pack up a basket full of goodies, your sunscreen, and a blanket, and head down to the beach. You park your car, get out, and to your surprise, there are signs posted everywhere telling you that the beach is closed indefinitely. There is trash floating up with the current as the waves hit the shore. A stench of raw sewage makes its way into your nostrils. You are so disgusted you can't even believe this is your beach. You may all open your eyes now.

Just last week, beaches from Santa Monica to Huntington were closed due to water pollution. I thought that it would be a great day to go and enjoy the water since the air was so clean after the rain showers, but because of all of the trash going down our storm drains the beaches were closed to everyone.

## **Thesis:**

Water pollution not only destroys our ability to enjoy large bodies of water recreationally, but it also destroys wildlife.

## **Preview of Main Points:**

I am going to share some information regarding ocean pollution with you today. First, I am going to cover various aspects of the problem of ocean pollution, including the history and extent of the problem, the effects, and why it is wrong to let it continue. Second, I am going to offer solutions to the problem of ocean pollution, including what has been done to date, why it hasn't worked, and what I suggest can be done now and into the future. Third, I am going to finish up with an overall summary of my main points and an appeal to your consciences.

I'm going to talk about the History of the Problem first.

### **I The Problem**

#### **A. History of the Problem**

1. Water pollution is the presence of any foreign substance in water which tends to degrade the quality so as to constitute a hazard or impair the usefulness of water, as defined by the U.S. Public Health Service.
2. Before man inhabited the earth, nature had natural processes that acted to remove pollutants, such as photosynthesis and bacterial degradation, and although these processes still occur today, pollution is being created more quickly than nature can restore balance.

3. According to Stephen Morton, author of **Water Pollution- Causes and Cures**, the advent of man created major water pollution problems that nature's self-purification processes could not cope with, including man's extreme numbers and the production of new synthetic substances that naturally occurring bacteria do not find particularly edible.

#### B. Extent of the Problem

- 1 From the natural balance that nature maintained before man up through today, ocean pollution has increased dramatically; so much so that the pollution levels could end all life as we know it on earth, as stated by Carl Strandberg in his book **Water Pollution, Causes, Mechanisms, Solutions**.
- 2 The Pacific Ocean specifically receives pollutants from land and from harbors.
- 3 Most pollutants are derived from land, either from water runoff after a rainfall event or from trash making its way into the ocean via rain gutters.
- 4 Pollutants that come from the harbors include discharges rich in nitrogen that contribute to a rapid growth of plankton, aka red tide.

#### C. Effect

- 1 The American Medical Association has cited eight consequences of water pollution. Some of these are:
  1. Poisoning of man and animals
  2. Detrimental effects on aquatic life
  3. Creation of objectionable odors and unsightliness
  4. Impairment of shellfish culture
  5. Destruction of aesthetic values
- 2 The introduction of wastes that are not biodegradable is causing a huge problem for aquatic life.
  - 1) Fish and marine mammals get entangled in debris and can no longer swim, or eat debris that blocks their digestive tracts and leads them to believe they are full when they are not.
- 3 Toxic waters lead to toxic fish, especially shellfish, that when eaten can cause health risks to humans.
  - 1) According to the book **Wastes in Marine Environments**, commercial shellfish harvests from roughly 1/3 of the productive areas are limited because of actual or potential contamination. This limited harvest causes a negative impact on the fishermen and a decrease in jobs.
- 4 Marine plants act to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and to produce oxygen.
  - 1) As these plants are destroyed, carbon dioxide will build up and less oxygen will be produced.
  - 2) Given that humans are dependent on oxygen to survive, just imagine the long-term effects of that.

#### D. Why Is It Wrong to Let it Continue

- 1 The earth is a balanced ecosystem, with every component dependent on every other. When one part is damaged, it leads to damage for the whole. We cannot destroy the oceans without affecting the air, the land, and ourselves.

### E. Why Should We Care

- 1 Aside from purely selfish reasons of wanting to be able to swim in the ocean without fear of getting sick, being able to recreationally surf, wakeboard, or water ski, or enjoying seafood that at one time was heralded for its nutritional qualities, it is important to maintain a broader view of the impact of our actions on future generations.
- 2 Although we inhabit the earth for a relatively short time, there are continuously new people being brought onto the earth who are dependent upon it for their time here. It is wrong for us to destroy the gift that we have been given, and to take that gift away from our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

I have told you about the problem. Now I'm going to tell you about some solutions.

## II. Solution

### A. What Has Been Done to Date

- 1 As stated by Donald E. Carr, as it is now, each state has its own set of standards for water cleanliness. There is no large scale government control.
- 2 Grassroots organizations such as Oceana and Greenpeace have attempted to spread the word about the negative effects we are creating for the environment.

### B. Why Hasn't It Worked

- 1 There is resistance within our country to allow the government control over too many aspects of our lives. However, it does appear that there needs to be a larger scale attempt at curbing the ocean pollution problem.
- 2 Business is money, and as long as people are willing to pay money to dump their wastes into the waters, there are people who are willing to take that money and look the other way.
- 3 There need to be some serious consequences put in place to dissuade those people who are so influenced by the power of money.
- 4 The grassroots organizations are not large-scale enough, and do not have the financial backing needed to reach the masses.

### C. What Is Your Solution

- 1 My solution to the problem of ocean pollution is two-fold.
- 2 First, I think environmental education should be a part of the curriculum for every school system across the country. It can be integrated at the elementary and middle school levels, and can culminate in a test that needs to be taken before graduation from high school. It need not be an extremely demanding test; just something to increase environmental awareness.

### D. What Will It Do

- 1 The solutions that I pose would educate people and take away the excuse of "I didn't know." Knowing is half the battle.

### E. Why Will It Work

- 1 I think my solution will work because I believe that people are inherently good people. If taught well and given as much information as possible, I believe that people have a stronger tendency to make the right decision than to make the wrong one.

2 I also believe that the threat of not having a world to live in is a strong motivator.

E. What Specifically Can We Do To Help

- 1 First and foremost, if you are a person who litters, STOP!
- 2 If you are not, and are concerned about your environment and what you can do to help, get involved in your community by picking up trash that you see on your street.
- 3 Use trashcans.
- 4 Arrange and/or attend beach clean-ups.
- 5 Educate yourselves.
- 6 If you see someone litter, call them out on it; don't just look the other way. Pick up whatever they dropped and say, "Excuse me, I think you dropped something."
- 7 It is important to remember that we are all in this together, and that taking the attitude of "it's not my problem" is going to get us nowhere.
- 8 Take charge of your actions, and help out where others are lacking.
- 9 The world will be a much better place for it.

Conclusion

Today I shared with you information regarding ocean pollution, including the causes of the problem, the effects of the problem, and some things you can do to help. Remember back to my introduction when I asked you all to close your eyes, and I painted a mental picture of the beach for you. That is one possible future for our beaches. But instead, please close your eyes one more. Picture a perfect, sunny, summer afternoon. There is a light breeze blowing, and the beach is calling to you. You pack up a basket full of goodies, your sunscreen, and a blanket, and head down to the beach. You park your car, get out, and feel the warm rays of the sun hitting your cheeks. Children are splashing in the ocean, there is a volleyball game being played off in the distance, and you can't wait to lay down that blanket and feel the warmth of the sand on your toes. This is happiness!

There are so many things that we can do to improve the water at our beaches. Pick one and incorporate it into your life. Do it for three months and then add another one to your life. Keep going, don't give up – our lives and the lives of so many others, human and non-human alike, depend on it!

Remember, individually we have the ability to make a positive impact on the earth for future generations to come if we all put those individual efforts together into one big group effort, we may see beaches more beautiful than we ever imagined.