

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center - 2020 Art & Writing Challenge

Middle School Essay

Honorable Mention

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Our Mother, Our Earth

Mother Nature has always provided for us since the day we were born. She has allowed us to roam Earth and gives us the resources we need to thrive on this planet. However, Humanity's everlasting greed overtakes us. We exploit our planet for its crops, coal, and other goods. This continual over-harvesting and abuse of resources hurts our planet for our benefit. We remain in oblivion and don't take the necessary steps needed to preserve our planet for the future. Our Planet is consistently threatened by us, as we strive to make the so-called 'progress'. The Government-Industrial Complex works solely to advance the profits of the private sector in spite of the rights and freedoms of the people. By allowing our world to work the way nature intended, we can improve all aspects of our world. To make progress to a better world, we must reconnect with our planet, remember it needs, and take action now.

As a society, we continually try to make progress but fail to consider the consequences of our actions. Everything we do has an impact on our planet, so we must begin to consider this when trying to make progress. This is hard however due to corrupt industries just looking to make a profit. Our government is influenced by the private sector which puts the needs of the rich ahead of the needs of the people and the planet. They collude to influence public opinion instead of advocating for our world's greater needs. By eliminating this influence, however, we can protect our environment. Furthermore, We need to reassess the environmental impact of everything we do before doing it. We need to pay a little more attention to our earth so that we can live in harmony with our environment. By looking out for our environment, we can sustain our natural resources to ensure the future of humans on earth.

All of the parts of our world are interconnected and affect one another. When we make an impact on our world, it impacts all parts of our lives. In the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing massive improvements to our environment. The COVID-19 pandemic is keeping more people home and this is reducing emissions and allowing nature to take its natural course. For example, many wild animals are retaking their natural environments with bears retaking Yosemite, and flamingos retaking Mumbai. Also, we are learning to adapt to use our cars less during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is because we are forced to stay home in the interests of public health. Even after the pandemic, however, we should continue this lifestyle because environmental issues are a threat to us all. Also, our planet's health affects our health so we should take care of our planet just as we take care of ourselves. We also now have realized that we don't need our cars as much as we think we do and we can take action to reduce emissions by driving less. Everything we do affects us at the end of the day, so we should treat ourselves respectfully by taking care of our planet properly.

I have had firsthand experiences with the adverse effects of pollution. In India, the beaches are so polluted that it makes the sand an oily black. Plastic pricks your feet as you walk across the sand. You think that seaweed is coiling around your foot but it is just a plastic bag washed in by the tide. There are almost no natural places on many of the beaches in India. If we do not take action now, this will become a new normal for beaches globally. Furthermore, the air is so polluted. In India, every breath I take ends with a cough. I look out of my window to see a drab landscape where air pollution blocks you from seeing the true beauty of these places. By forgetting our planet's needs, we are preventing ourselves from seeing the beautiful world that is here for all of us and taking the action needed to protect it.

By reconnecting with our planet and remembering its needs, we can all take the action necessary to maintain a clean and natural planet. We need to remember that this is OUR PLANET and that we should put its needs before our own. Ultimately, every impact on our planet impacts us as well. So, when we want to make progress, let's not give in to the private sector, and instead let's do what's best for our

planet and what's best for us. By allowing Mother Earth to take her natural course, we can improve our world for all of us. So let's all take a second to think about the little things we can do for our planet, and let's all take action now.