Lesson Plan

Letter-Writing Campaign

Book: *Saving the Oceans from Plastic*
Series: Saving Earth's Biomes
Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice writing persuasive letters supported by evidence.

Supplies

- *Saving the Oceans from Plastic* book
- Computer access
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read *Saving the Oceans from Plastic* as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Saving the Oceans from Plastic discusses how plastic in the oceans affects humans and ocean life, where that plastic comes from, and how people, companies, and governments are working to reduce the use of plastic. As more people learn about the problem of plastic in the oceans, more positive changes are taking place. People are changing their own use of plastic, and they are encouraging companies and governments to take action as well.

Students will write persuasive letters to a company or store of their choice. In their letters, they should try to persuade the company or store to reduce its use of plastic. Students should include the following sections:

- an appropriate greeting/salutation
- an opening paragraph that clearly states the student's reason for writing
- 3 body paragraphs that give reasons for why the company or store should reduce its use of plastic
- a closing paragraph that summarizes the student's argument
- an appropriate closing and signature

Students may use the book to write their persuasive letters. They may also research online for further information about the effects of plastic on oceans.

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Evaluation

Collect the letters at the end of class. Award each student up to 28 points:

- 1 point for an appropriate salutation, closing, and signature
- 3 points for an opening paragraph that clearly states the student's purpose in writing
- 5 points each for body paragraphs that give supporting evidence for the student's argument
- 3 points for a closing paragraph that summarizes the student's argument
- 3 points for organizing the letter in a way that is effective and persuasive
- 3 points for writing that is relatively free of spelling and grammatical errors

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 6 (W 6.1).

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