

CISD Grade 6 ELAR Unit 03

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Litter, Litter, Everywhere

[1] Do you consider Earth your home? Just as you want to keep your home nice so that you can be proud of it, you should want the same thing for your home planet. That means you should be interested in preventing littering and finding out what you can do to help clean up our environment.

[2] When people identify environmental problems, 94% of them put litter at the top of the list. All you have to do is look around the school grounds, the city sidewalks, and the parking lots to realize that we have lots of work to do in training our citizens to throw away their own trash. The Environmental Protection Agency states that there are ten primary sources of litter:

- Pedestrians dropping trash in the street
- Motorists throwing trash out car windows
- Uncovered loads in the backs of trucks which spill out onto the streets
- Household trash
- Commercial garbage from businesses
- Construction project trash
- People at leisure not properly throwing things away
- Entertainment events with food (such as movies and sporting events)
- Illegal dumping
- Laziness and intentional littering

As you look at this list, you realize that some of this trash is necessary. We can call that group garbage. After all, we live in a throw-away society where products come in wrappers and packaging that has to be discarded. Other things on the list, however, represent trash that is carelessly tossed into the open without being put in trash containers. We can call that list litter.

[3] Americans produce 154 million tons of garbage every year, and that's enough to fill the New Orleans Superdome from top to bottom twice a day, everyday! Plastic makes up 38% of this garbage since every person uses an average of 190 pounds of plastic a year. That means plastic, disposable diaper liners when you're an infant, plastic water bottles and CDs when you're a kid, and dozens of plastic products—credit cards to milk jugs—when you're an adult. In fact, it's almost impossible to live without using plastic and having to throw some of it away. So why is it a problem?

Effects of Litter

- Litter costs money because removing it from the environment is expensive.
- Litter is a threat to public health because it attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria.
- Items such as broken glass and dirty needles can be a tremendous risk to public safety.
- Litter can be a fire hazard.
- Litter looks bad and creates a negative impression. It's bad for business.
- Litter can harm or even kill wildlife. Litter in our oceans is killing marine life.
- Litter contaminates our water and harms our waterways.
- Litter attracts litter by sending out a message that people do not care about the environment and it's okay to trash the area.

[4] Have you ever noticed how many cigarette butts you see on the ground? For some insane reason, many smokers who would never think of littering, think nothing of throwing a cigarette butt out the windows of their cars. The Texas Department of Transportation reports that 13% of the trash found along Texas highways is composed of about 130 million cigarette butts. Many smokers mistakenly believe that their cigarette butts biodegrade quickly, but that is not true. The filters in cigarette butts are made of cellulose acetate, not cotton, and they can take decades to degrade. Educational groups are now making an effort to inform the public so that smokers will realize the truth and dispose of their cigarette butts properly.

[5] Another huge littering problem is created by disposable diapers. Years ago, babies only wore cloth diapers that were laundered and reused. In the 1960s, however, the first throw-away diapers hit the market. Today hardly anyone uses the cloth version. In spite of the cost, the disposable diaper is preferred for its convenience. The problem is that many people are careless about discarding them. And, even when they are thrown away properly, soiled diapers still put untreated raw sewage into our landfills. This contamination can eventually impact the cleanliness of our water. Until the manufacturers come up with a better and safer way to deal with them, disposable diapers should be properly put in the trash and not left on roadsides, in parking lots, and on our beaches.

[6] Maybe you DO care about littering, and you're very careful to throw away your own trash. But, you say to yourself that there's nothing you can do about the problem. In other words, you've given up. You don't think one person can make a difference. Would you change your mind if all of your classmates were willing to pitch in and try to make a difference? What could you do?

[7] Many students across the nation are learning the phrase, "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." This slogan is a reminder of what we must do to deal not just with litter, but even with garbage that has been properly thrown away. REDUCE means you look for ways to cut back on trash. First, you have to become very observant and take note of all the containers and things you get that end up becoming trash. An easy place to start is at the store. Instead of taking so many bags, use fewer bags. Maybe you will even say you don't need a bag and just keep the receipt handy to prove you paid. REUSE is pretty easy to understand. It means finding a way to use something repeatedly rather than throwing it out. You might use real silverware and wash it, for example, rather than taking plastic silverware and throwing it away. RECYCLE is something you should be familiar with. It means turning used products in to be remanufactured and reused. Our school district recycles tons of paper. You can do your part by making sure you and your classmates only put recyclable paper, and not other garbage, in the recycling waste baskets. You can help your school designate special containers for recycling aluminum cans and plastic bottles in the cafeteria. You can do the same thing at home and help sort your family's trash before the weekly garbage collection.

[8] Are you beginning to see some solutions? Littering comes down to disrespect. If you throw something down because you are too lazy to hold onto it until you find a garbage can, then your behavior is saying that you have no respect for the earth, no respect for the plant and animal life here, and no respect for your fellow citizens who have to live with your trash. Yes, it takes some effort to prevent littering. You have to think and stay focused; you have to remember to look around before you leave an area and pick up your trash. You have to even be willing to go the extra mile and pick up trash that is not yours. Next time you stand in front of school and wait for the bell, why not pick up trash you see on the ground rather than just ignoring it? Or, remind your friends to pick up what they leave behind. If you have the courage to do your part and gently remind your friends to do their parts, together we can make a difference.

- 1 In looking up the word **pedestrians** from Paragraph 2, you find that the root *ped* originated from the Latin term *pedestri* meaning "on foot." You determine that the word in Paragraph 2, therefore, means —
- A people driving cars
 - B people who are walking
 - C people who are on bicycles
 - D people who are shopping
- 2 How does **litter** differ from **garbage** according to Paragraph 2?
- F Garbage includes food products and litter doesn't.
 - G Garbage can be recycled and litter can't.
 - H Garbage is necessary trash thrown away properly and litter isn't.
 - J Litter is necessary trash thrown away properly and garbage isn't.
- 3 In Paragraph 4, why does the author use the phrase *for some insane reason*?
- A to show that smoking is insane
 - B to show that littering is insane
 - C to show that cigarette butts are not biodegradable
 - D to emphasize that it's illogical to think that cigarette butts are not litter
- 4 You can infer from reading Paragraph 4 that the education groups are hoping their public relations campaign will —
- F cause students to start picking up trash on their playgrounds
 - G cause smokers to stop throwing cigarette butts on the ground
 - H cause smokers to stop smoking
 - J cause smokers to recycle cigarettes
- 5 In Paragraph 4 of *Litter, Litter, Everywhere*, what does the term **degrade** mean?
- A break down into natural elements not harmful to earth
 - B combine with other elements to form new products
 - C turn into man-made recyclable objects
 - D turn into a toxic liquid
- 6 In Paragraph 8, the author asks the reader to *go the extra mile*. What does this mean?
- F You can do more than your share.
 - G You can start exercising more.
 - H You can do one mile of litter clean-up.
 - J You can recycle.

7 Examine this outline based upon the ideas within Paragraph 7.

I. Anti-littering slogan

A. Reduce

B. Reuse

C. Recycle

1. _____

2. aluminum cans

3. plastic bottles

What best fits the blank at C1?

A paper

B trash

C garbage

D waste baskets

8 Choose the correct cause/effect relationship based upon *Effects of Litter*.

F Litter is expensive. Therefore, litter is trash.

G Broken glass is dangerous. Therefore, glass is litter.

H Litter looks bad. Therefore, it is bad for business.

J Litter attracts litter. Therefore, people do not care about the environment.

9 Sylvia's teacher asked her to include a compound sentence in her summary of the article on litter. Which sentence should she include?

A Students should learn how to reduce their garbage, and they should learn how to recycle it.

B Students should learn how to reduce garbage as well as recycle it.

C Once students have reduced their garbage, they should recycle what is left.

D Students should reduce and recycle garbage.

10 Choose the best summary for this reading passage.

- F** Ninety-four percent of Americans put littering at the top of their list of concerns. Our towns are filled with trash, and no one seems to care. Schools, sidewalks, and parking lots are littered with trash that people have thrown on the ground.
- G** Cigarette butts are litter even though smokers seem to believe otherwise. Cigarette butts do not biodegrade easily and make up 13% of the trash along Texas highways. Smokers need to be educated and learn to discard their cigarette butts properly in trash containers.
- H** Earth is our home and we all need to help take care of it. Becoming more aware of the litter problem is one step in saving our planet. By learning to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much of our trash as possible, we can make progress in eliminating litter. Every individual can make a difference.
- J** Littering is disrespectful to the planet, to animal life, to plant life, and to our neighbors. Every time you throw something on the ground, you are being disrespectful. You can learn to pay more attention and help prevent littering by cleaning up after yourself and even picking up trash that is not yours.

Adapted from several city recycling programs described online.

City of Romo Curbside Recycling Program

The City of Romo's Environmental Waste Services department offers every-other-week curbside recycling. To determine your pick-up day, visit the EWS online through the City of Romo webpage.

These items are acceptable to go inside your red recycling bin for curbside every-other-week pick-ups.

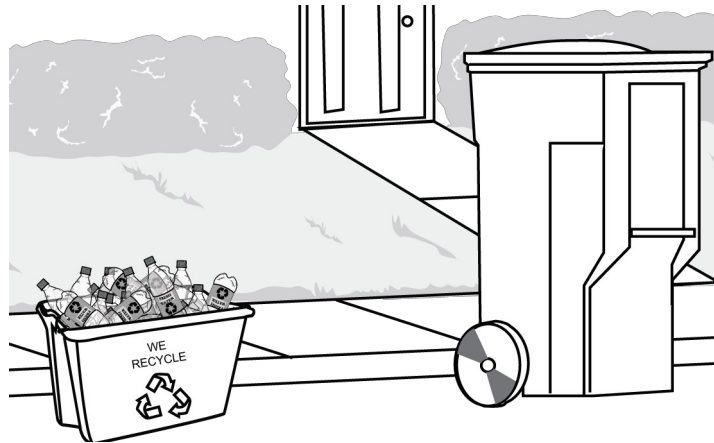
- Aluminum, steel, & tin cans (rinse out any food, throw away detached lids)
- Aerosol cans that do not contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- Glass bottles & jars (rinse & remove lids)
- Plastic containers #1 & #2 (remove lids)

We cannot accept at curbside:

- Phone books
 - Plastic wrap
 - Plastic grocery bags
 - Plastic containers that contain hazardous material (such as bleach, motor oil, or antifreeze)
 - Plastics #3, 4, 5, 6, or 7
 - Scrap metal
 - Paint cans
 - Aerosol cans with chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
 - Automotive product containers
 - Aluminum foil or disposable aluminum plates or pie tins
 - Detached steel can lids
 - Light bulbs
 - Plate glass, auto glass, tempered glass, or any glass that is not a container
 - Mirrors
 - Ceramics
 - Ovenware
 - Corrugated cardboard
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When setting out your red recycling bin, please follow these guidelines:

- Put your red bin outside by 7:00 a.m. on your designated collection day.
- Place the bin 4 feet from your green trash container, so our trucks can easily pick up each container.
- Do not place containers near stationary objects such as gas or water meter, cable or electrical box, or mailbox.
- Place newspapers, advertising inserts, & magazines in a separate container (box, grocery bag, tied bundles, etc.) next to your red bin. On rainy days, protect them from getting wet.
- We cannot accept wet or sunburned papers.



- 11** Where should you put your recycling containers on your designated day?
- A** right next to your newspaper container
 - B** by your mailbox
 - C** on your front curb
 - D** four feet from your trash container at the curb

- 12** What link connects the passages *Litter, Litter, Everywhere* and *City of Romo Curbside Recycling Program*?
- F** community programs
 - G** causes and effects of individual carelessness
 - H** worst littering problems
 - J** solutions to environmental problems

13 chlo-ro-fluor-o-car-bon

n. Abbr. CFC

Any of various halocarbon compounds consisting of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine, once used widely as aerosol propellants and refrigerants.

Chlorofluorocarbons are believed to cause depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer.

Why would the city of Romo ban recycling chlorofluorocarbons from the normal recycling bins?

- A** They might release dangerous chemicals into the air when their metal containers are recycled.
- B** They are too big to be put in a recycle bin.
- C** They do not need recycling and can just be put in the trash.
- D** They want the containers stored at people's homes when they are no longer useful.

Read the following paragraph. Look for any errors and answer the questions below.

Calling Mrs. Clean

(1) Has it been so long since you've cleaned your room that you don't remember the color of your carpet? (2) Is this affecting having all your prized possessions right at your fingertips? (3) Well, think no more. (4) You can seek the assistance of Mrs. Clean for all of your cleaning questions sitting at your own computer. (5) Although you will do the actual cleaning, the email cleaning lady will help you organize the tasks. (6) She will set up a weekly schedule, this will help you maintain that clean and organized room. (7) You'll be really pleased with the affect. (8) "I have never had" said one client, "such a clean room."

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- 14** Which word could be added to Sentence 4 to make the meaning clearer?
- F** while
 - G** since
 - H** although
 - J** even if

15 Combine Sentence 3 and Sentence 4 into one sentence using a subordinate conjunction.
