

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Pedagogy Fellowship

“Creative Approaches to Reducing Global Plastic Contamination”

Introduction: You are a part of a collegewide effort to increase access to education and empower students through "open pedagogy." Open pedagogy is a "free access" educational practice that places you - the student - at the center of your own learning process in a more engaging, collaborative learning environment. The ultimate purpose of this effort is to achieve greater social justice in our community in which the work can be freely shared with the broader community. This is a renewable assignment that is designed to enable you to become an agent of change in your community through the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For this work, you will integrate the disciplines of **Spanish** and **(organic) chemistry** to achieve **SDG #12**, which is **responsible consumption and production**. Click here to learn more about [SDG #12](#).

Instructions:

Part 1: View two of the following documentaries listed below where recycling practices (or lack thereof) and their impacts throughout the world are discussed. Take note of any (5 or so) topics, places, global impacts, etc. that strike you as fascinating, important, extraordinary, or simply touch you on a personal level. What jumped out at you? Why?

[Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#) (This video is copyrighted material.)

[Plastic Planet](#) (This video is copyrighted material.)

[A Plastic Ocean](#) (This video is copyrighted material.)

[Straws \(trailer\)](#) (This video is copyrighted material.)

[Plasticized](#) (This video is copyrighted material.)

[Bag It: Is your Life Too Plastic?](#) (This video is copyrighted material.)

Part 2: As demonstrated in part one, in many parts of the world, here in the U.S. and abroad, the recycling practices of plastic materials has not always been taken seriously or has been overlooked by the consumer. Many activists and organizations around the world have taken an interest in solving the issue of plastic contamination. Write a 2-3 page research paper focusing on what has been done and what is currently being done to address these concerns. Taking into account what you have found, provide an alternate solution or solutions that could reduce the amount of plastic waste throughout the world. Looking at your solution(s), how would you share your vision to encourage its implementation on a local and global level? What is the greatest impact you foresee it will have for people, the environment, and the world as a whole?

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