

Stewards of the Sea

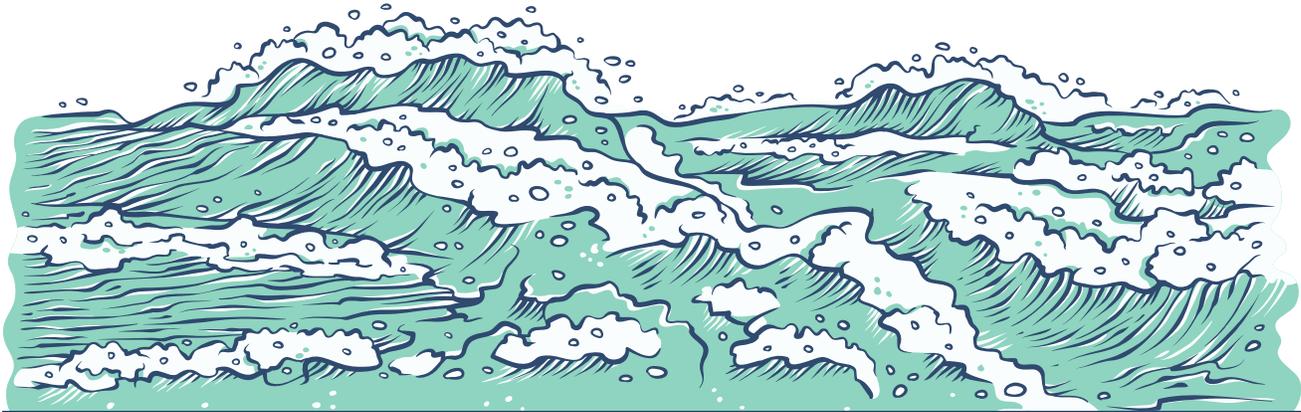
PERSUASIVE WRITING PROJECT

Grades: 3-5

Background: Ocean conservation and pollution are the subjects of great debate.

Objective: Students will research and complete a persuasive writing piece related to ocean conservation.

Sources: CILC Maker Space, Expository Writing Prompts, Greenpeace, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Reading Rockets, SBC International.



USING THIS RESOURCE

After students have attended "SOS: Stewards of the Sea" at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, and completed the watershed lessons, use this resources to introduce them to or have them practice persuasive writing focused on ocean conservation. You can hang the poster in your writing center.

What's Included?

1. Reading List
2. Backgrounder: Plastics and the Ocean
3. Graphic Organizer for Persuasive Writing

CILC Curricular Resources &

MAKER
SPACE

Sources: <https://www.iucn.org>; <https://www.greenpeace.org>;
<https://summerboardingcourses.com/blogs/persuasive-writing-prompts>; <http://s://expositorywritingprompts.com/writing-prompts-on-the-environment>;
https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/persuasive_writing



OCEAN CONSERVATION BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Extend students' exploration of ocean conservation with these books.

- *How to Save Sea Life: A Kid's Guide To Cleaner Oceans* by Ella Hughes
- *Kids Saving Oceans: Olivia Makes a Difference* by Tori McGee
- *Kids vs. Plastic* by Julie Beer
- *Make a Splash!: A Kid's Guide to Protecting Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers, & Wetlands* by Cathryn Berger Kaye M.A., Philippe Cousteau, et al.
- *National Geographic Kids Mission: Sea Turtle Rescue* by Karen Young
- *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth* by Rochelle Strauss
- *Planet Ocean: Why We All Need a Healthy Ocean* by Patricia Newman and Annie Crawley
- *The Global Ocean* by Rochelle Strauss
- *Plasticus Maritimus: An Invasive Species* by Ana Pego, Isabel Minhós Martins, et al.
- *Water, Water Everywhere! Stop Pollution, Save Our Oceans* by Pfiffikus
- *What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting our Planet* by Jess French



BACKGROUND: PLASTICS AND THE OCEAN

As students learn more about the ocean and ocean conservation they are likely to come across information about plastics. Plastics are one source of ocean pollution. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature

- 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean each year, and plastic makes up 80% of all marine debris found in both shallow and deep ocean waters.
- Marine species ingest or are entangled by plastic debris, which causes severe injuries and death.
- Plastic pollution threatens food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to climate change.

About 90% of the plastic that humans make each year goes unrecycled and a lot of single-use plastics make their way through our watersheds and into the ocean. The most common single-use plastics are familiar, everyday items:

- Plastic bread bag tags
- Plastic bottles
- Styrofoam takeaway containers
- Straws
- Plastic packaging materials
- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic shopping bags

Plastics make up much of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a massive floating island of trash that is three times bigger than France.

Sources: International Union for Conservation of Nature, Greenpeace, National Geographic.

Name _____

Writing Your Own Persuasive Paragraph

Persuasive writing convinces someone to take an action, makes them believe your argument, or causes them change their mind about a topic.

Prompt

Plastic is one source of ocean pollution. Our world produces hundred of millions of plastic bags, which are intended to be reused, but are often used only once. Plastic bags, bottles, containers and straws pollute the ocean and hurting marine animals. Should these plastics we use once and throw away be banned? If they are banned, what would people use instead? What would replace plastic bags, plastic bottles, plastic straws and plastic food containers? What do you think? Support your opinion with a persuasive paragraph.

Get Started

Your paragraph has to include these sections:

- **Introduction:** State your position or opinion. Who is your audience? In other words, who are you trying to persuade? Keep your audience in mind when you write.
- **Reasons:** List at least three reasons for your opinion. Think of your audience and what reasons might persuade them. Consider why they might disagree with you.
- **Conclusion:** Restate your opinion in a persuasive way.

Introduction

Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

Conclusion

