

## Sixth Grade Writing Prompt (for SSA for 5<sup>th</sup> graders)

### Ban Plastic Bags—Yes or No?

Plastic bags are a convenience that most consumers take for granted. According to [Reuseit](#), a company specializing in reusable products, “It is estimated that worldwide plastic bag consumption falls between 500 billion and 1 trillion bags annually. That breaks down to almost 1 million every minute. The average family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store.” Given the tremendous number of bags used, the impact on the environment is an issue that must be addressed. Some say we should ban the use of plastic bags completely. Others defend the use of plastic bags and say we should not ban them.

#### Some of the reasons to continue use of plastic bags are as follows:

- Plastic bags are both cheap and convenient—for businesses and for consumers.
- Plastic bags are durable and can be used more than once.
- It costs less to recycle plastic bags than it does to recycle paper ones.
- Plastic bags take up less space in landfills than paper ones.
- A ban on plastic bags would negatively impact workers who are employed by factories that produce bags.
- Reusable bags are not without their own issues. These bags can harbor germs and bacteria, such as E. coli.

\*Information from <http://www.takepart.com/article/2013/03/08/do-plastic-bag-bans-make-people-sick--and-steal> and [http://www.plasticsindustry.org/files/about/fbf/myths+facts\\_grocerybags.pdf](http://www.plasticsindustry.org/files/about/fbf/myths+facts_grocerybags.pdf)

#### Some of the reasons to ban plastic bags are as follows:

- Only 1-3% of plastic bags are recycled worldwide.
- When plastic bags are not recycled and end up in landfills, they take many years to decompose. In ideal circumstances, it takes twenty years; in less ideal circumstances, decomposition can take up to 1000 years.
- When plastic bags do begin to break down, the smaller, toxic bits can end up contaminating soil and waterways. Once in the food web, animals can ingest them.
- Plastic bags are made of polyethylene, which is an oil- based product. Production contributes to air pollution and energy consumption.
- Plastic bags are a major source of ocean pollution. Once in the ocean ecosystem, these bags can cause death of marine animals such as fish, dolphins, and sea turtles who mistake them for food.

\*Information from <http://www.reuseit.com/facts-and-myths/facts-about-the-plastic-bag-pandemic.htm> and [http://loveyourearth.org/Plastic\\_Bag\\_Facts.html](http://loveyourearth.org/Plastic_Bag_Facts.html).

**Should we ban plastic bags? Support your claim using clear and relevant evidence from the article above.**

## Seventh Grade Writing Prompt (for SSA for 6<sup>th</sup> graders)

### Ban Plastic Bags—Yes or No?

Plastic bags are a convenience that most consumers take for granted. According to [Reuseit](#), a company specializing in reusable products, “It is estimated that worldwide plastic bag consumption falls between 500 billion and 1 trillion bags annually. That breaks down to almost 1 million every minute. The average family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store.” Given the tremendous number of bags used, the impact on the environment is an issue that must be addressed. Some say we should ban the use of plastic bags completely. Others defend the use of plastic bags and say we should not ban them.

#### Some of the reasons to continue use of plastic bags are as follows:

- Plastic bags are both cheap and convenient—for businesses and for consumers.
- Plastic bags are durable and can be used more than once.
- It costs less to recycle plastic bags than it does to recycle paper ones.
- Plastic bags take up less space in landfills than paper ones.
- A ban on plastic bags would negatively impact workers who are employed by factories that produce bags.
- Reusable bags are not without their own issues. These bags can harbor germs and bacteria, such as E. coli.

\*Information from <http://www.takepart.com/article/2013/03/08/do-plastic-bag-bans-make-people-sick--and-steal> and [http://www.plasticsindustry.org/files/about/fbf/myths+facts\\_grocerybags.pdf](http://www.plasticsindustry.org/files/about/fbf/myths+facts_grocerybags.pdf)

#### Some of the reasons to ban plastic bags are as follows:

- Only 1-3% of plastic bags are recycled worldwide.
- When plastic bags are not recycled and end up in landfills, they take many years to decompose. In ideal circumstances, it takes twenty years; in less ideal circumstances, decomposition can take up to 1000 years.
- When plastic bags do begin to break down, the smaller, toxic bits can end up contaminating soil and waterways. Once in the food web, animals can ingest them.
- Plastic bags are made of polyethylene, which is an oil- based product. Production contributes to air pollution and energy consumption.
- Plastic bags are a major source of ocean pollution. Once in the ocean ecosystem, these bags can cause death of marine animals such as fish, dolphins, and sea turtles who mistake them for food.

\*Information from <http://www.reuseit.com/facts-and-myths/facts-about-the-plastic-bag-pandemic.htm> and [http://loveyourearth.org/Plastic\\_Bag\\_Facts.html](http://loveyourearth.org/Plastic_Bag_Facts.html).

**Should we ban plastic bags? Support your claim using clear and relevant evidence from the article above. Be sure to acknowledge opposing claims in your discussion.**

## **Ban Plastic Bags—Yes or No?**

Plastic bags are a convenience that most consumers take for granted. According to [Reuseit](#), a company specializing in reusable products, “It is estimated that worldwide plastic bag consumption falls between 500 billion and 1 trillion bags annually. That breaks down to almost 1 million every minute. The average family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store.” Given the tremendous number of bags used, the impact on the environment is an issue that must be addressed. Some say we should ban the use of plastic bags completely. Others defend the use of plastic bags and say we should not ban them.

### **Some of the reasons to continue use of plastic bags are as follows:**

- Plastic bags are both cheap and convenient—for businesses and for consumers.
- Plastic bags are durable and can be used more than once.
- It costs less to recycle plastic bags than it does to recycle paper ones.
- Plastic bags take up less space in landfills than paper ones.
- A ban on plastic bags would negatively impact workers who are employed by factories that produce bags.
- Reusable bags are not without their own issues. These bags can harbor germs and bacteria, such as E. coli.

\*Information from <http://www.takepart.com/article/2013/03/08/do-plastic-bag-bans-make-people-sick--and-steal> and [http://www.plasticsindustry.org/files/about/fbf/myths+facts\\_grocerybags.pdf](http://www.plasticsindustry.org/files/about/fbf/myths+facts_grocerybags.pdf)

### **Some of the reasons to ban plastic bags are as follows:**

- Only 1-3% of plastic bags are recycled worldwide.
- When plastic bags are not recycled and end up in landfills, they take many years to decompose. In ideal circumstances, it takes twenty years; in less ideal circumstances, decomposition can take up to 1000 years.
- When plastic bags do begin to break down, the smaller, toxic bits can end up contaminating soil and waterways. Once in the food web, animals can ingest them.
- Plastic bags are made of polyethylene, which is an oil- based product. Production contributes to air pollution and energy consumption.
- Plastic bags are a major source of ocean pollution. Once in the ocean ecosystem, these bags can cause death of marine animals such as fish, dolphins, and sea turtles who mistake them for food.

\*Information from <http://www.reuseit.com/facts-and-myths/facts-about-the-plastic-bag-pandemic.htm> and [http://loveyourearth.org/Plastic\\_Bag\\_Facts.html](http://loveyourearth.org/Plastic_Bag_Facts.html).

**Should we ban plastic bags? Support your claim using clear and relevant evidence from the article. Your response should be organized logically. Be sure to distinguish your claim from the opposing claim by providing clear reasons and relevant evidence.**