

# B.E.S.T. Writing Anchor Sets

## Grade 7



THE B.E.S.T. STANDARDS

*Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking*

The Florida Department of Education is publishing the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Writing scoring anchors and annotations in support of its efforts to maintain transparency of the scoring process for Florida's statewide, standardized Writing assessments. These anchors can be used as a resource for Florida educators, schools, and districts regarding the scoring of student responses on the B.E.S.T. Writing assessments.

Each spring, students in grades 4–10 are administered a set of source texts and a writing prompt based on those sources. Students respond to one of two possible modes – expository or argumentative – and must draw on reading and writing skills while integrating information from the source materials in order to develop and draft a typed, cohesive essay response.

Anchor sets are used as a primary reference for expert scorers as they score student responses to prompts and sources provided during the spring B.E.S.T. Writing administration. Essays selected for the anchor demonstrate a range of skill levels within each scorepoint on the B.E.S.T. Writing rubric. A bulleted annotation follows each response to explain the prominent characteristics of the response in each domain – *Purpose and Structure*, *Development*, and *Language* – described in the rubric. As scorers read student responses, they use the anchor to help determine which scorepoint best fits a response holistically.

As with all assessment content, papers selected for the anchor set are reviewed by multiple committees of Florida educators and include members of the *Just Read, Florida!* office and State Regional Literacy Directors (SRLDs). After these meetings, the state's scoring subcontractor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), and the Department's ELA content teams assemble final materials for scorers.

All responses are scored holistically; however, responses at any grade level that do not include source citation cannot earn a score higher than 2 in the *Development* domain.

For more information about the B.E.S.T. Writing assessments, visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. For questions about this document, please contact [Assessment@fldoe.org](mailto:Assessment@fldoe.org).

Florida Anchor Key

Grade ARG

Item #37678

Bottled Water Ban

Paper	P/S	D	L		Lithocode
A-1	1	1	1		770002040822
A-2	1	1	1		770002083712
A-3	1	1	1		770004753641
A-4	2	2	2		770002101835
A-5	2	2	2		770004675356
A-6	2	2	2		770004664791
A-7	2	2	2		770002037724
A-8	2	2	2		770004713281
A-9	3	2	3		770005353349
A-10	3	3	3		770002100959
A-11	3	3	3		770005447732
A-12	3	3	3		770002043352
A-13	3	3	3		770002084168
A-14	4	4	4		770002089015
A-15	4	4	4		770002078761
A-16	4	4	4		770005433161

**Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG**

1/1/1

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

I think that plastic bottles should be banned because they take a lot to deliver, they are bad for the environment, and they cost way more. In source two it states that "It takes a fleet equivalent of 40,000 18-wheelers just to deliver the water Americans buy every week." so that's a lot of gas and work just to deliver them. In source three it states that "91% of all plastic is not recycled" which is a big waste of plastic that is horrible for the environment. In article 1 it states that "it costs us a thousand times more than water from our faucet at home, and it's no safer or cleaner" it is not worth wasting so much money if you can get the same thing from your tap for free.

**1 – Purpose/Structure** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A claim is presented (*I think that plastic bottles should be banned because they take a lot to deliver, they are bad for the environment, and they cost way more*).
- There is little discernible organizational structure demonstrated, as ideas are listed and do not progress.
- Transitional words and/or phrases are absent.
- The introduction and conclusion statements are brief, with only a sentence each, and do not contribute to a sense of completeness.
- The response is too brief to demonstrate knowledge of purpose, structure, or task.

**1 – Development** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Multiple sources are used, but ideas derived from the sources lack development (*so that's a lot of gas and work just to deliver them*).
- Little knowledge of elaborative techniques is demonstrated, as there are minimal attempts to extend on source ideas.
- A counterclaim is not addressed.
- Evidence is appropriately cited using source numbers, but that alone is not enough to advance the score point.
- The response is too brief to demonstrate knowledge of elaboration and topic.

**1 – Language** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Vocabulary and word choice are vague and unclear (*...which is a big waste of plastic that is horrible for the environment*).
- Sentence structure is simplistic.
- A lack of command of conventions is demonstrated, as there is a density and variety of severe errors in capitalization, punctuation (commas, apostrophes), spelling, and sentence formation.
- The response is too brief to establish or maintain tone and/or voice.

**Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG**

1/1/1

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Should bottle water be ban ? no plastis water bottles shouldnt be ban . Some people say drink tap water but live in a county were tap water isnt safe to drink . Now im going to tell you why water bottle shouldnt be ban .

Water bottles shouldnt be ban because tap water isnt safe ." in developing countries where there is not a safe source of tap water , bottled water becomes a somewhat trusted option ." ( source 1 , para.3 , line 3-5 ). Some places in the world dont have clean , safe tap water so the safest way is drinking water bottles . So its would be hard if water bottles were ban and people would have to drink the unsafe tap water . still water bottles shoundent be ban .

In the end water bottles shouldnt be ban . Because it wouldnt be fair for someone to have to drink unsafe tap water . So not water bottles shouldnt be ban .

**1 – Purpose/Structure** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A claim is provided (*no plastic water bottles shouldnt be ban*) but minimally sustained.
- Little awareness of organizational structure is demonstrated.
- There are a few transitional words, but they are ineffective (*So; In the end*).
- The introduction and conclusion are minimal and add little to the response.
- The response is too brief to demonstrate knowledge of purpose, structure, or task.

**1 – Development** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A lack of development is demonstrated as only one idea about unsafe tap water is presented and minimally elaborated.
- Elaboration demonstrates little knowledge of elaborative techniques with minimal extension of source ideas (*Some places in the world dont have clean , safe tap water so the safest way is drinking water bottles . So its would be hard if water bottles were ban and people would have to drink the unsafe tap water*).
- A counterclaim is provided but somewhat confusing (*Some people may say drink tap water but live in a county were tap water isnt safe to drink*).
- A single source is used and appropriately cited, but that alone is not enough to advance the score point.
- The response is too brief to demonstrate knowledge of the topic.

**1 – Language** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Word choice is unclear and confusing (*Now im going to tell you why; its would be hard if water bottles were ban*).
- Sentence structure is simplistic and confusing (*In the end water bottles shouldnt be ban . Because it wouldnt be fair for someone to have to drink unsafe tap water . So not water bottles shouldnt be ban*).
- A lack of command of conventions is demonstrated, as there is a density and a variety of errors in capitalization, punctuation (apostrophes), spelling, and sentence formation, at times obscuring meaning.
- The response is too brief to establish or maintain appropriate tone and/or voice.
- Brevity with errors demonstrates a lack of command of language skills.

## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

1/1/1

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

in my opinion I think plastic water bottles should be banned because if people are not trying to take care of are country then we shouldnt have something that can put animals and living things in danger. In paragraph 1 it says "bottled water is a drain on the enviornment: the u.s. public goes through about 50 billion water bottles a year, and most of those plastic containers are not recycled".that explains every thing if people dont want to hurt animals then they should reycicle there trash they usaully harm animals like fish seaturtles dolphins and more . the u.s. is just wasting money on things that are gonna harm animials. in paragraph 7 it says " not only does bottled water contribute to excessive waste but it coust a thousand times more then water from are faucet at home " . and all these water bottles that are laying around are releasing toxic chemicals that are going into to the air we humans breath this is probaly some of the resoans why we are having majure virusis and stuff all that stuff will be prevanted if we followed the rules . nature would be so much better and are world will be better .in paragraph 34 it says "landfills are another major sink of plastic bottles globally and present a wholly diffrent set of issues based on current projections it is estimated that 12 billion metric tons of plastic will find a home in landfalls by 2050". this is my opinion about if we should banned the plastic water bottle

**1 – Purpose/Structure** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- A claim is provided (*I think plastic water bottles should be banned because if people are not trying to take care of are country then we shouldnt have something that can put animals and living things in danger*) but is confusing and insufficiently sustained throughout.
- Little awareness of organizational structure is demonstrated as there is a list of ideas presented that does little to advance the argument.
- Transitional words and/or phrases are relatively few and do little to connect ideas (*that explains; if people dont want...then they should; this is probaly some of the resoans; this is my opinion*).
- A brief introduction and conclusion are present, providing a minimal framework for the response.

**1 – Development** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Minimal development of the topic is demonstrated.
- Elaboration attempts to extend ideas but provides minimal support and is somewhat confusing (*and all these water bottles that are laying around are releasing toxic chemicals that are going into the air we humans breath this is probaly some of the resoans why we are having majure virusis and stuff*).
- Evidence from sources is present but minimally integrated.
- Appropriate citations are present in the form of paragraph numbers, but this alone does not advance the score point.
- No counterclaim is acknowledged.

**1 – Language** – Below grade-level performance demonstrated

- Word choice is confusing and unclear (*if people are not trying to take care of are country; then they should reycycle there trash; and more; wasting money on things that are gonna harm animals*).
- Sentence structure is confusing (*we are having majure virusis and stuff all that stuff will be prevanted if we followed the rules*) and simplistic (*this is my opinion about if we should banned the plastic water bottle*).
- A lack of command of standard English conventions is demonstrated with a density and variety of errors, and at times the meaning of words is obscured (*that explains every thing if people dont want to hurt animals then they should reycycle there trash they usaully harm animals like fish seaturtles dolphins and more; nuture would be so much better and are world will be better*).
- Tone and/or voice are conversational and do not elevate the response beyond a 1.



Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

2/2/2

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Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

I think that plastic water bottles should be banned because when people use plastic water bottles people don't recycle they just litter. They don't take care of the world because they don't recycle bottled water. It also causes problems to the animals.

Some of the littered water bottles go to the ocean and some sea animals can easily die just by eating them. In the text it says "...found that people who regularly eat seafood ingest up to 11,000 tiny pieces of plastic each year". Using plastic water bottles can make our environment not clean or safe. We can die just for a bottled water. They can also be in landfills and have many chemicals.

Some people think it should be banned but others don't think the same way. In the text it says "Banning bottled water doesn't really teach anyone anything". Some people rather use water bottles because you can easily just refill it than waiting to use the water fountain every time their thirsty. They think its a lot faster to drink just by using water bottles.

I still think it should be banned. It keeps us not safe and it doesn't keep our environment clean. We should use something else than littering water bottles and not finishing them.

**2 – Purpose/Structure** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- The claim (*I think that plastic water bottles should be banned because when people use plastic water bottles people don't recycle they just litter*) is insufficiently sustained within the task.
- Organizational structure is inconsistent, and there is little progression in the two body paragraphs, which disrupts the advancement of ideas.
- A few transitional words attempt to connect ideas (*It also; just by; They can also be; but others don't think the same way; I still think*).
- An ineffective introduction and simple conclusion are included.

**2 – Development** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Development demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument but provides some loosely related information (*Using plastic water bottles can make our environment not clean or safe. We can die just for a bottled water*).
- Evidence is partially integrated and related to the topic but somewhat disconnected from the argument.
- A counterclaim is acknowledged (*Some people think it should be banned but others don't think the same way*).
- Multiple sources are used, but reference to the text (*In the text it says*) is not an appropriate citation.

**2 – Language** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are unclear, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas (*THEY think its alot faster to drink just by using water bottles*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled and somewhat simplistic, demonstrating a lack of grade-appropriate language facility.
- Inconsistent use of correct grammar (*its* for *it's*; *their* for *they're*), punctuation (*dont*; missing commas), capitalization (*THEY*), and spelling (*recylce*; *becasue*; *thirty*; *alot*) demonstrates a partial command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and/or voice are informal for an academic argumentative essay.

**Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG**

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Plastic water bottles should be banned. Plastic water bottles are causing some of the problems in this world. But we can reduce this problem. This problem can be resolved by using less plastic water bottles or banning them.

Some of the problems we face with waterbottles is pollution. The proces of transportation of the water bottles causes gas fuels and other things to produce pollution. In the text it says "Transporting the bottles and keeping them cold also burns fossil fuels, which give off greenhouse gasses."

Another problem we have is how much money were spending on it. In the text it says "Yet more than U.S. \$100 billion is spent ever year on plastic water bottles globally." Thats a lot of money just to spen just for plastic water bottles. Thats a thousand times more than what we have to play for faucet water at home!

These plastic water bottles are not only harmful to us, but oceans too. People use these plastic bottles and throw them on the ground. These water bottles that are thrown on the groud find their way to the ocean. The plastic that gets in the ocean kills the sea snimals. In the text it says "The plastic that finds its way into the ocean inevitably wil pose a risk of ingestion by sea birds, fish, marine mmmals, etc."Its not uncommon to see articles of dead sea animals with a big amount of plastic in their stomachs.

There are many other reasons pastic water bottles can hurt us, and many more reasons for plastic water bottles to be banned. But these three are the mayjor impacts right now. By banning or reducing the use of plastic water bottles these problems can be reduced. The more plastic water bottles we stop using, the more safer we would be!

**2 – Purpose/Structure** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A claim is provided (*Plastic water bottles should be banned*) and somewhat sustained.
- Transitions attempt to connect ideas, but they lack purpose and variety (*Some of the problems; Another problem*).
- An introduction and conclusion are present but simplistic.
- The organizational structure is repetitive, somewhat disrupting the advancement of ideas. Each body paragraph presents an idea, a paraphrase, and a citation but is limited in sustaining the idea.

**2 – Development** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A partial and incomplete understanding of the topic is demonstrated.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument using source ideas with little extension (*Thats a lot of money just to spen just for plastic water bottles. That's a thousand times more than what we have to play for faucet water at home; People use these plastic bottles and throw them on the ground. These water bottles that are thrown on the groud find their way to the ocean*).
- Multiple sources are used, but they are partially integrated and somewhat ineffective.
- A counterclaim is not acknowledged.
- An appropriate citation is missing (*In the text it says*).

**2 – Language** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic, demonstrating partial command of expression (*Some of the problems we face with waterbottles is pollution; other things; big amount; many more reasons*).
- Sentence structure is simplistic and lacks grade-appropriate language facility (*Another problem we have is how much money were spending on it*).
- Inconsistent use of correct grammar (*were* for *we're*; *what we have to play*; *Its* for *It's*; *more safer*), punctuation (missing commas; *Thats*), and spelling (*procces*; *spen*; *mayjor*) is demonstrated, though not to a high degree of density nor severity overall.
- Tone and/or voice are inconsistent and conversational.

**Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG**

**2/2/2**

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Bottled water. The common luxury of the modern day, while being fairly convenient, these bottles bring many cons to the table. I personally believe that we should ban them all together for a variety of reasons. These plastic containers can greatly pollute the ocean, and tap water is federally regulated in the U.S.

To start off, plastic bottles pollute the ocean. It stated in paragraph 32," It is estimated that by 2050 the ocean will contain more plastic by weight than fish." This piece of evidence further proves my point, by relating my point to something more imaginable. Have you ever went to the beach and saw many pieces of plastic and garbage? Now imagine that 1,000,000 times more and thats still smaller than the amount of plastic in the ocean. To sum it up, we should ban the use of plastic bottles because they pollute our oceans.

Secondly, tap water is federally regulated by the U.S. It stated in paragraph 2,"But in the U.S., where tap water is federally regulated and often screened for dangerous pollutants, the public drinks 21 gallons (79 liters) of bottled water per capita per year on average, according to the Columbia Water Center at Columbia University's Earth Institute in New York." This citation shows that bottled water in the United States is not even needed. If tap water is regulated by the government to be safe for human consumption, why use plastic bottles. In summary, plastic bottles should be banned all together becasure tap water is screened for pollutants by the federal government.

In conclusion, I personally believe that these containers should be banned from being sold in stores for a few reasons. They create a mess in our oceans, and the government watches over the tap water we drink.

**2 – Purpose/Structure** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A claim is provided (*I personally believe that we should ban them all together for a variety of reasons*), but it is unclear and insufficiently sustained.
- The organizational structure is limited and repetitive, disrupting the advancement of ideas. The second body paragraph mentions bottled water being federally regulated several times, partially advancing the argument.
- Transitions are present, and they are attempting to connect ideas within and among paragraphs, but they lack variety (*To start off; To sum it up; Secondly; In summary; In conclusion*).
- The introduction and conclusion are present yet simplistic. The introduction provides the claim and two reasons why water bottles should be banned, and the conclusion provides a brief restatement of those ideas.

**2 – Development** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A partial understanding of the topic is demonstrated.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument with simplistic extensions on source evidence (*This piece of evidence further proves my point, by relating my point to something more imaginable. Have you ever went to the beach and saw many pieces of plastic and garbage? Now imagine that 1,000,000 times more and thats still smaller than the amount of plastic in the ocean*).
- Multiple sources are used, but they are partially integrated and somewhat ineffective when supporting the argument.
- Evidence is appropriately cited using paragraph numbers, but citation alone does not elevate the development.
- A slight acknowledgement to a counterclaim is provided in the introduction (*while being fairly convenient*).

**2 – Language** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are basic, demonstrating a partial command of expression of ideas (*This citation shows that bottled water in the United States is not even needed*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled, lacking grade-appropriate language facility (*These plastic containers can greatly pollute the ocean, and tap water is federally regulated in the U.S.*).
- Although there are not a lot of grammar or convention errors, the essay is simplistic and does not reflect grade-appropriate language skills.
- Tone and/or voice are conversational.

## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

2/2/2

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

I think plastic water bottles should be banned. First, of all plastic water bottles add up to an excessive waste. Second, 91% of all the plastic water bottles that are consumed are not being recycled. Lastly, why do we even use plastic bottles if it's a health risk for us?

All the plastic bottles we consume adds up and makes excessive waste and this is how I know that. According to (paragraph 32 from Plastic in the Ocean) "It is estimated that by 2050 the oceans will contain more plastic by weight than fish". That fact is horrible and it shows why we need to ban plastic water bottles because it's killing the ocean life such as fish, sea birds, marine mammals, etc. Another way it's the bottles are adding to the waste is by filling the landfills. According to (paragraph 34 from Plastic in Landfills) "Based on current projections, it is estimated that 12 billion metric tons of plastic will find a home in landfills by 2050". This shows how much of the plastic bottles are really getting recycled.

Secondly, 91% of all the plastic from the bottles is not being recycled. I know this because it is stated in (paragraph 28 We're Now at a Million Plastic Bottles per Minute-91% of Which Are Not Recycled) "The second, 91% of all plastic is not recycled" and it says that "On top of that, it is estimated that over half a trillion plastic bottles will be sold in 2020". These are some astonishing facts. If you are wondering how long it might take for a plastic bottle to decompose well... it's only around like 400 years for it to naturally decompose (paragraph 30, Source 3).

Lastly, us humans who live in a place with safe drinking tap water use too many plastic bottled waters because we find it as a indulgences or convenient. There is no point in buying plastic water bottles if it is safe to drink from the tap. Not only do plastic water bottles contribute to excessive waste but they also harm you with chemicals. According to (paragraph 7, Source 1) "A 2008 investigation by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group found some bottled water is sullied with untested industrial chemicals and may not necessarily be cleaner than tap water. . . .".

In conclusion, I believe plastic water bottles should be banned. One reason backing me up is that they contribute to excessive waste. My second reason is that 91% of all plastic water bottles are not being recycled. My last reason is that the plastic water bottles can harm us with the chemicals the companies use. This is why I believe plastic water bottles should be banned.

**2 – Purpose/Structure** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A claim is provided (*I think plastic water bottles should be banned*) and somewhat sustained.
- The organizational structure is inconsistent, disrupting the advancement of ideas. The first body paragraph talks about plastic affecting the ocean; then it moves onto landfills without building much on previous idea, which disrupts the advancement of ideas.
- Transitions are present but basic (*First; and this is how I know that; Another way; Secondly; Lastly; In conclusion*).
- The introduction and conclusion are present but simplistic and repetitive of one another.

**2 – Development** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Development demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument with some extensions and restatements (*That fact is horrible and it shows why we need to ban plastic water bottles because it's killing the ocean life such as fish, sea birds, marine mammals, etc; There is no point in buying plastic water bottles if it is safe to drink from the tap. Not only do plastic water bottles contribute to excessive waste but they also harm you with chemicals*).
- Multiple sources are used, but they are partially integrated.
- No counterclaim is acknowledged.
- Evidence is appropriately cited, using multiple sources (*paragraph 32 from Plastic in the Ocean; paragraph 7, Source 1*), but that alone does not elevate the score.

**2 – Language** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Word choice is simplistic, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas (*Not only do plastic water bottles contribute to excessive waste but they also harm you with chemicals*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled and somewhat simplistic.
- The response is grammatically accurate overall with relatively few errors but does not demonstrate grade-appropriate language facility.
- Tone and/or voice are inconsistent in the context provided.



## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

2/2/2

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Have you ever thought of water bottles being bad? Water bottles can cause a ton of harm to the environment and people are trying to ban them, so should we get rid of them fully? I believe we should, let me tell you how much waste it causes, the health of water bottles, and why its important to get them banned.

How much waste does water bottles cause? Water bottles make so much waste that in the ocean there is going to be so much plastic in just a few years. In paragraph 1 it states "The U.S. public goes through about 50 billion water bottles a year, and of those plastic containers are not recycled," This explains that we go through so much water bottles to the point its up to 50 bilion and most pastic containers aren't even recycled. When we go and get more and more water bottles we dont notice the impact it has if its not recycled, it will might just end up on the ground and the wind could blow it in the ocean and thats 1 more plastic bottle in the ocean. This is just some of the waste it causes, it can cause so much more waste even more in the ocean.

What is the health of water bottles? The health behind water bottles aren't good even when they decompose its even worse. In paragraph 8 it shows "They do not break down naturally and release toxic chemicals when they finally do decompose," What this means is that it doesn't break down naturally and it releases toxic gas in the air. Almost everyone doesn't know that it doesn't break down naturally and can cause harm to the in the environment. We don't know how much harm we do to the world so just getting rid of water bottles will help, one step at a time. This is a small part of the health risk that water bottles do/cause, so its important to get rid of the health risk or use tap water which is much safer and cleaner then water bottles and doesnt do harm to the environment.

Why is it so important to get water bottles banned overall? Water bottles cause so much harm even though there are other brands that are doing just as much or even worse should know the harm they cause. In paragraph "But i don't understand how campuses can ban bottled water while continuing to sell Coke, Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Vitmin Water and Red Bull." This says that why can other companys sell their products but not water bottles, because water bottles cause more harm. Water bottles don't get recycled but normally other bands do, like the ones listed, do get recycled more then water bottles. If other bands, like the ones listed above, cause as much harm as water bottles they would most likey have people try to ban them too. It important to take one step at a time and get a problem done then go on to the next problem, like water bottles.

In conlusin, Water bottles should get banned because they cause a lot of waste, a lot of health problems, and overall are mostly more of a helth risk then anyother brand. Do you think water bottles should get banned?

**2 – Purpose/Structure** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A claim is provided (*Water bottles can cause a ton of harm to the environment and people are trying to ban them, so should we get rid of them fully? I believe we should...*) and somewhat sustained.
- The organizational structure is somewhat sustained but is simplistic and limited in connecting ideas.
- Rhetorical questions are used as topic sentences to introduce ideas for the body paragraphs, and internal transitions attempt to connect ideas within paragraphs (*This explains; What this means; This says*).
- An introduction and conclusion are present. The introduction states the claim and lists ideas that are reintroduced in the body, and the conclusion summarizes those same ideas. Although somewhat simplistic, attempts are made at providing a sense of completeness.

**2 – Development** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- A partial understanding of the topic is demonstrated.
- Elaboration attempts to develop the argument but is somewhat ineffective (*This is just some of the waste it causes, it can cause so much more waste even more in the ocean; Almost everyone doesn't know that it doesn't break down naturally and can cause harm to the in the environment. We don't know how much harm we do to the world so just getting rid of water bottles will help, one step at a time. This is a small part of the health risk that water bottles do/cause, so its important to get rid of the health risk or use tap water which is much safer and cleaner then water bottles and doesnt do harm to the environment*).
- Multiple sources are used, but they are partially integrated and somewhat ineffective.
- An attempt at a counterclaim is acknowledged (*...This says that why can other companys sell their products but not water bottles, because water bottles cause more harm*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited using paragraph numbers, but it is not enough to advance the scorepoint in holistic scoring.

**2 – Language** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- Vocabulary and word choice are imprecise, demonstrating partial command of expression of ideas (*What is the health of water bottles? The health behind water bottles aren't good even when they decompose its even worse*).
- Sentence structure is partially controlled, lacking grade-appropriate language facility (*This says that why can other companys sell their products but not water bottles, because water bottles cause more harm*).
- Although there is not a consistency of grammatical errors, common usage of simplistic sentences demonstrates a lack of grade-appropriate language skills.
- Tone and/or voice are conversational.

**Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG**

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Water bottle usage and manufacturing is well, a controversial topic. Many argue that they should ban the usage the water bottles, whilst others may disagree. I, myself, personally believe that water bottles should stay. It's convenient to take anywhere you go. It's pretty hypocritical when the arguments against bottled water are the same ones throwing their empty beer bottles and soda cans into the trash, also inadvertently throwing them into the ocean with the plastic bottles.

Firstly, water bottles are nothing short of convenience. Picture this, you're in an unfamiliar environment and you're sweating bullets, you need some sort of refreshment, but you have no clue where such luxury could possibly be. That's where water bottles come in. With such material, you aren't aimlessly searching for refreshments in an unknown place when it's right there within your reach. In a life-threatening situation, you'd be thanking the Heavens to have just a bottle of water in your proximity. Plus, due to their sizes, you could easily carry them around and take a sip whenever you feel like it. Why would you want to get rid of that?

Next, there is clear hypocrisy when it comes to bottled water and other products, such as Coca-Cola, Sprite, Fanta, Red Bull, Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, you get the idea. Such products mentioned are sold in cans and **plastic** bottles. How are you going to bash bottled water, and not those artificial (even healthier...) beverages. Could it be potential bias, leading to such hypocrisy? Possibly. Because, it takes way more effort, time, and products to create a single bottle of a carbonated or caffeinated drink than it takes water... for obvious reasons. Though, considering what products like Coca-Cola are created for, bias, may just be the case for this obvious hypocrisy...

Lastly, some may argue that buying bottled water doesn't make much sense, considering the prices to the other ways you could be able to get such water, though I personally believe that bottled water is the best option. It's better than get purified, clean, healthy water, rather than water from a fountain that came from an uncleaned toilet, or hasn't been properly cleaned in order to ensure the drinker's safety. I would much rather prefer a bottled water that is 2 dollars more than expected, rather than uncleaned sewage water.

All in all, bottled waters should not be banned. It's convenience is unparalleled, and we should be appreciative for it. Plus, when you empty it, it can be used for arts and crafts or something useful. So 'water' you waiting for? Give bottled water a try!

**3 – Purpose/Structure** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A claim is provided (*I, myself, personally believe that water bottles should stay*) and generally maintained throughout.
- The organizational structure is logical and allows for the advancement of ideas, as each body paragraph leads with an idea that stays focused throughout the paragraph.
- Transitional strategies purposefully connect ideas within paragraphs (*Picture this; Plus; Because*), though some basic transitions are used among paragraphs (*Firstly; Next; Lastly*).
- The introduction and conclusion are sufficient, contributing to a sense of completeness.

**2 – Development** – Approaching the range of grade-level performance

- An understanding of the topic is demonstrated due to logical development.
- Adequate elaboration includes a combination of original writing, text evidence, examples, and paraphrasing (*Picture this, you're in an unfamiliar environment and you're sweating bullets, you need some sort of refreshment, but you have no clue where such luxury could possibly be. That's where water bottles come in*).
- Ideas from multiple sources are used, lending credibility of the argument.
- Grade-level expectations for a counterclaim are addressed (*Lastly, some may argue that buying bottled water doesn't make much sense*).
- **Evidence is not appropriately cited, limiting this response to a 2 for the Development domain.**

**3 – Language** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Integration of appropriate academic vocabulary demonstrates a clear expression of ideas (*All in all, bottled waters should not be banned. It's convenience is unparalleled, and we should be appreciative for it*).
- Sentence structure is varied and demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility (*I would much rather prefer a bottled water that is 2 dollars more than expected, rather than uncleaned sewage water*).
- Grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrate grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and/or voice are somewhat casual but ultimately authoritative and appropriate for the overall argument.

## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

3/3/3

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Bottled water is made of plastic, which supposedly does not dissolve until 400 years. Plastic is artificial and therefore does not belong in the places where it is usually dropped, like the ocean. Bottled water should be banned.

To begin with, bottled water is significantly harming the environment. "It's not uncommon to see articles of sea life found dead with significant amounts of plastic in their stomachs..." (Source 3, paragraph 32, line 5) This clearly shows the impact of bottled water on the ecosystem, daily, globally, and extremely common. "A recent study by Ghent University in Belgium, for example, found that people who regularly eat seafood ingest up to 11,000 tiny pieces of plastic each year." (Source 3, paragraph 33, line 3) Bottled water is not only harming animals, it's also harming humans. Plastic harms the environment as a whole, and those who eat these animals may consume the plastic.

Furthermore, bottled water is wasting an excessive amount of money. "Yet more than U.S. \$100 billion is spent on bottled water globally." Tons of money is wasted from something as simple as a plastic bottle. Humans need water to live and though it is convenient to have many plastic bottles around, it is even more efficient and budget-saving to use something like tap. "The water in a half-liter bottle typically costs 3,000 times what the same amount of water from a spigot costs." (Source 2, paragraph 23, line 3) This money could be significantly reduced, saving people tons and providing more eco-friendly options, such as tap water.

Continuing, plastic bottles add on a high amount of waste. "Not only does bottled water contribute to excessive waste..." (Source 1, paragraph 7, line 1) Every landfill is full of so much plastic, most coming from water bottles. Only 91% of plastic bottles are recycled. "More than 80% of recyclable plastic end up in landfills each year." (Source 1, paragraph 8, line 1) To add on to this, plastic doesn't dissolve for 400 years, as stated earlier, and those 80% of recyclable plastic will be there for along time to come.

One may argue, why not ban other bottled beverages too? If we banned bottled water, we should ban other beverages that may contribute to waste. "The bottled water industry is so successful, it has outpaced milk, coffee, and juice on number of gallons of drinks." Bottled water is far more popular than soda. People buy so many. One is far more likely to come across a bottle of water on the beach than a can of soda. Also, people need water to live. That's why they have to keep getting water, bottled which is most used. Sodas and other beverages are more optional.

In conclusion, bottled water should be banned because of the excessive waste, tons of money being wasted, and it's harming the environment. To help, one can vote to have plastic bottles banned in favor of water fountains around the city, or drink from a reusable bottle.

**3 – Purpose/Structure** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- The claim (*Bottled water should be banned*) is on task and generally maintained throughout.
- The organizational structure is logical and allows for the advancement of the argument. For example, the first body paragraph discusses how bottled water is harming the environment, how it affects sea life, the ecosystem, and humans, while introducing text evidence to support the idea.
- Transitional strategies are purposeful and connect ideas within (*This clearly shows; To add on to this; Also*) and among paragraphs (*To begin with; Furthermore; Continuing; In conclusion*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion are present and contribute to a sense of completeness.

**3 – Development** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A logical development of ideas demonstrates an understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration is adequate and appropriately supports the argument (*This money could be significantly reduced, saving people tons and providing more eco-friendly options, such as tap water*).
- Relevant, generally integrated evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.
- A counterclaim is acknowledged (*One may argue, why not ban other bottled beverages too?*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited with precise examples (*Source 1, paragraph 7, line 1*).

**3 – Language** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Integration of appropriate academic vocabulary demonstrates a clear expression of ideas (*significantly; excessive; efficient; budget-saving*).
- Sentence structure is varied and demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility.
- Grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrate grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice are appropriate for the overall argument.

## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

3/3/3

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Do you think there should be a ban on plastic water bottles? I believe there should be a ban on plastic water bottles because they are very harmful to the environment. There are countless reasons as to why water bottles are harmful such as there being more plastic than fish in the sea by weight. We can't just leave them in landfills either because, they release toxic chemicals that could potentially harm humans. Even just making the water for bottles are harmful, the groundwater pumping can start to affect underground aquifers and watersheds.

The first reason as to why water bottles should be banned is because of the amount of plastic already in the ocean. There is an absurd amount of plastic in the ocean due to a number of reasons. Plastic has been infiltrating the ocean for years, and by using plastic bottles, we keep adding to it. The amount of plastic is so severe that by in a few years it will outweigh the fish. In article 3, paragraph 32 it says, "It is estimated that by 2050 the ocean will contain more plastic by weight than fish". This provides an estimation about the sheer amount of plastic in the sea that we add to everyday.

Secondly, most of the plastic bottles we use do not get recycled. The amount of water bottles that are bought versus the amount that get recycled is insane. Not recycling water bottles is very harmful. They are made from a chemical that takes 400 years to decompose. It was estimated that half a trillion water bottles were sold 3 years ago, I can't even imagine the number now. We buy so many bottles yet recycle so little. In source 3 paragraph 28 it says, "One, that globally humans buy a million plastic bottles per minute. The second, 91% of all plastic is not recycled". This shows a statistic about the amount that we buy and the little amount we recycle.

Third, transporting and making the water for the bottles is also detrimental to the environment. Making and using water bottles are so harmful, even just moving and holding them produces greenhouse gases. When water bottle companies pump out groundwater, they are harming watersheds and aquifers. Water bottles and water bottle companies are very harmful to us and our home. In source 1 paragraph 2 it says, "Transporting the bottles and keeping them cold also burns fossil fuels... And groundwater pumping by bottled-water companies draws heavily on underground aquifers and watersheds..." Just getting the water is harmful.

Someone who disagrees with my argument could say that even if we do get rid of bottles we would still have so many other sources of plastic waste. There isn't a point in focusing on one source when we have so many others. In source 2 paragraph 21 it says, "But how is the fleet of trucks delivering water in bottles any different than the fleet delivering caramel-colored, caffeinated water in bottles?" Although that is true, water bottles are such a huge amount of the waste. We should go for the main source, then try to eliminate the other sources of our plastic waste.

In conclusion, I do believe that we should have a ban on plastic water bottles. The amount of water bottles we buy instead of recycling is crazy. We have so much water in the ocean that it may outweigh the fish. Even just transporting, holding, and getting the water is harmful because they release greenhouse gases. We need to try and do our best to cut the amount of water bottles we buy and don't recycle.

**3 – Purpose/Structure** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A claim is provided (*I believe there should be a ban on plastic water bottles because they are very harmful to the environment*), focused on the task, and generally maintained throughout.
- The organizational structure is logical and allows for the advancement of ideas, with topic sentences that set up body paragraphs that stay focused.
- Transitional strategies purposefully connect ideas within (*Even just; and by using; yet recycle so little; even just moving; When water bottle companies; Although that is true*) and among paragraphs (*The first reason; Secondly; Third; Someone who disagrees with my argument could say; In conclusion*).
- The introduction and conclusion are sufficient, contributing to a sense of completeness.

**3 – Development** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- A logical development of ideas demonstrates an understanding of the topic.
- Adequate elaboration includes a combination of original writing (*Plastic has been infiltrating the ocean for years, and by using plastic bottles, we keep adding to it*), text evidence, and paraphrasing to appropriately support the argument.
- Relevant evidence from multiple sources is used, lending credibility to the argument.
- Evidence is appropriately cited using paragraph, article, and source numbers.
- A counterclaim is addressed in the fourth body paragraph (*Someone who disagrees with my argument could say*).

**3 – Language** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Integration of appropriate academic vocabulary demonstrates a clear expression of ideas (*It was estimated that half a trillion water bottles were sold 3 years ago, I cant even imagine the number now. We buy so many bottles yet recycle so little*).
- Sentence structure is varied and demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility (*Making and using water bottles are so harmful, even just moving and holding them produces greenhouse gasses*).
- Use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice are appropriate for the overall argument.



## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

3/3/3

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Plastic is a world-wide problem that cannot seem to go away. More specifically, plastic water bottles. Plastic water bottles are really popular in countries such as the U.S. These bottles are not all good, and they should be banned. Plastic water bottles should be banned because bottled water is economically expensive, and lots of plastic ends up in the oceans. Without awareness, no one will know what just might happen because of these awful bottles.

Starting with, plastic bottled water is economically expensive. In the source "Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water", "Costs us a thousand times more than water from our faucet at home..." Strategically, saving money could be done just by using water coming from your home. Running out will never be a problem, as long as the water bill is paid. On the plus side to bills, less money will have to be spent on plastic water bottles that could be used for something else. For example, this extra money could buy new clothes, or make that shopping budget less tight. While reading, the article "Bottled Water Is Silly- But So is Banning It" mentioned, "The water in a half-liter bottle typically costs 3,000 times what the same amount from a spigot costs." Since the water in homes is already being paid for, why not actually use it?

Additionally, plastic ends up in oceans. As stated correctly by "We're Now at a Million Plastic Bottles per Minute- 91% of Which Are Not Recycled", "It is estimated that by 2050 the ocean will contain more plastic by weight than fish." The ocean is filled with millions of life forms, including fish. Fish makes up most of the population of animals in the ocean. Imagining that, plastic is said to eventually outpopulate fish. Sadly, it is already happening. Many fish wash up on shores, found dead because of plastic. Not only fish are suffering, though. Turtles are a victim of the plastic outrage. Innocent animals everyday are being killed because of plastic.

Lastly, plastic bottled water can be a helpful tool in places where tap water is not a option. Found in "Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water", "In many cities in developig countries where there is not a safe source of tap water, bottled water becomes a somewhat trusted option." Some countries really struggle. Finding clean water in places such as Africa is not easy. Where there is organizations to try and help, sometimes bottled water is nice. Bottled water is sure to be safe and clean, just what the nation needs for it's people. With that being said, there is no evidence that bottled water is cleaner than tap water. Tap water is also all-natural, whereas some bottled waters may not. Plus, tap water does not come in a packaging that takes 400 years to naturally decompose. Sure, bottled water may have some benefits, but tap water is the better choice.

In conclusion, plastic is a world-wide issue. The problem of plastic exists in every nation that produces plastic water bottles. These bottles are dangerous not only to the environment, but to humans. The only solution is to ban plastic water bottles. Plastic water bottles should be banned because economically they are expensive, and plastic ends up in oceans. Without the awareness and action of fellow countries, and humans, plastic might overpopulate the WORLD.

**3 – Purpose/Structure** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- The claim (*Plastic water bottles should be banned because bottled water is economically expensive, and lots of plastic ends up in the oceans*) is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout.
- The organizational structure is logical and allows for the advancement of the argument.
- Transitional strategies are purposeful and connect ideas within paragraphs (*More specifically; Strategically; For example*) and among paragraphs (*Starting with; Additionally; Lastly; In conclusion*).
- The introduction and conclusion are sufficient and contribute to a sense of completeness.

**3 – Development** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Development is logical and demonstrates an understanding of the topic.
- Adequate elaboration includes a combination of original writing with paraphrasing, text evidence, and examples to support the argument (*Imagining that, plastic is said to eventually outpopulate fish. Sadly, it is already happening. Many fish wash up on shores, found dead because of plastic. Not only fish are suffering, though. Turtles are a victim of the plastic outrage. Innocent animals everyday are being killed because of plastic*).
- Relevant, integrated evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.
- A counterclaim is sufficiently addressed in the third body paragraph (*Lastly, plastic bottled water can be a helpful tool in places where tap water is not a option*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited using source titles.

**3 – Language** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Integration of appropriate academic vocabulary (*More specifically; economically expensive; outrage; all-natural; world-wide issues*) demonstrates a clear expression of ideas (*Many fish wash upon shores, found dead because of plastic*).
- Sentence structure is varied and demonstrates grade-appropriate language facility.
- Use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling all demonstrate grade-appropriate command of Standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice are appropriate for the overall argument and give a sense of urgency (*Without the awareness and action of fellow countries, and humans, plastic might overpopulate the WORLD*).

## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

3/3/3

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Where do you think plastic water bottles go when we no longer use them? Everyone has drank out of atleast one plastic water bottle before. Although plastic water bottles are easy to take around and they are more trusted than tap water fountains, plastic water bottles should be banned. They should be banned because they cause a mass amount of landfill waste and they harm the environment.

First and foremost, plastic water bottles should be banned because they cause a mass amount of landfill waste. "Why tap water is better than bottled water" by Solvie Karlstrom and Christine Dell'Amore states, "More than 80 percent of recyclable plastic bottles end up in landfills each year. They do not break down naturally and release toxic chemicals when they finally do decompose, according to the colombia water center." Think about it, when we no longer use plastic water bottles they don't magically disappear, the are transported to landfills where they just stay there and pollute the area, when more plastic water bottles are transported to the landfills from time to time it will create a large mass of waste that pollute the planet. Also, based on "We're now at a million plastic bottles per minute-91% of which are not being recycled" by Trevor Nace, it states "Landfills are another major sink for plastic bottles globally and present a wholly different set of issues...Based on current projections, it is estimated that 12 billion metric tons of plastic will find a home in landfills by 2050." Plastic water bottles are transported every day to landfills , causing them to grow and grow and grow, basicaslly plastic bottles are like parasites to landfills damaging them everytime they continue to grow, and who knows how large they will grow by 2050.

Furthermore, Plastic water bottles should be banned because they harm the environment. "We're now at a million plastic bottles per minute-91% of which are not being recycled" by Trevor Nace says "It is estimated that by 2050 the ocean will contain more plaastic by weight than fish. The plastic that finds its way into the oceans inevitably will pose a risk of ingestion by sea birds, fish, marine mammals, etc." Clearly, when people just drop their used plastic water bottles on the floor, rain might carry them into sewers which leads them to lake then the oceans and when they do reach the oceans they kill the life that lives in the ocean therefore harming that specific environment. "Why tap water is better than bottled water" by Solvie Karlstrom and Christine Dell'Amore also mentions " Transporting the bottles and kepping them cold also burns fossil fuels, which give off greenhouse gasses." Greenhouse gasses hold heat in the atmostphere which often contributes to the cause of global warming on Earth, global warming isn't a good thing , global warming is also one of the main problems the earth faces that is very hard to resolve, when people continue to make plastic water bottles and transport them, that isn't easing the problem more than its creating it.

In conclusion, Plastic water bottles should be banned because they cause a mass amount of landfill waste and they harm the environment, even though they have their perks, the disadvantages outweigh the perks. People should not create plastic water bottles or plastic overall, just look at this planet now, if we dont do something, it won't last till 2050.

**3 – Purpose/Structure** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- The claim is focused on the task and generally maintained throughout (*They should be banned because they cause a mass amount of landfill waste and they harm the environment*).
- The organizational structure is logical and allows for the advancement of the argument.
- Transitional strategies connect ideas within (*Although; Think about it; Clearly*) and among paragraphs (*First and foremost; Furthermore; In conclusion*).
- A sufficient introduction and conclusion contribute to a sense of completeness.

**3 – Development** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Development is logical and demonstrates an understanding of the topic.
- Elaboration is adequate and includes original writing with text evidence, examples, and rhetorical techniques that support the argument (*Plastic water bottles are transported every day to landfills, causing them to grow and grow and grow, basically plastic bottles are like parasites to landfills damaging them everytime they continue to grow, and who knows how large they will grow by 2050*).
- Relevant, integrated evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.
- The counterclaim, stated within the introduction and conclusion, is acknowledged (*Although plastic water bottles are easy to take around and they are more trusted than tap water fountains, plastic water bottles should be banned; even though they have their perks, the disadvantages outweigh the perks*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited using source titles and author names (*Solvie Karlstrom and Christine Dell'Amore; Trevor Nace*).

**3 – Language** – Within the range of grade-level performance

- Integration of appropriate academic vocabulary (*parasites; damaging; resolve; perks; disadvantages*) demonstrates a clear expression of ideas (*Clearly, when people just drop their used plastic water bottles on the floor, rain might carry them into sewers which leads them to the lake then the oceans*).
- Sentence structure is varied and demonstrates grade-level language facility.
- Use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrate grade-appropriate command of standard English conventions.
- Tone and voice are appropriate for the overall argument.

## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

4/4/4

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Did you know that scientists estimate that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean? While that seems like a good reason to ban plastic water bottles, that is not a good idea. After reading the articles, "Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water", "Bottled Water Is Silly-But So Is Banning It", and "We're Now at a Million Plastic Bottles per Minute-91% of Which Are Not Recycled" I can see that we should not ban water bottles. We should not ban plastic water bottles because the water bottles are needed in some countries, it won't solve anything, and it would be easier to start recycling.

Have you ever experienced a natural disaster? During these disasters, people often have to use bottled water. This is because the disaster can often cut off power or pollute ground water. According to "Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water" by Solvie Karlstrom and Christine Dell'Amore, "In many cities in developing countries where there is not a safe source of tap water, bottled water becomes a somewhat trusted option." This means that in some countries tap water is not safe to drink even when there hasn't been a natural disaster. Getting rid of plastic water bottles would hurt people in both a natural disaster and in developing countries. Bottled water is the only safe option there is for the people who do not have clean water available to them. If plastic water bottles were banned many people would have no other option than to drink unfiltered water filled with bacteria and pollutants. That would increase disease spread and affect the health of many people who would otherwise be fine.

Have you ever noticed how much plastic is in every day objects? From pencil sharpeners, to storage bins there is plastic everywhere! What does this mean? This means that banning plastic water bottles will not be enough to save the world or even come close. According to, "Bottled Water Is Silly-But So Is Banning It" by Charles Fishman, "Water is available on campus- from taps, from spigots... Coke and Red Bull aren't available the same way." Water bottles might not be needed, but banning plastic water bottles doesn't mean anything when everything else is still plastic. Banning plastic water bottles would be like putting a bandaid over a bullet wound and expecting it to help. While it might help a little in the short term it won't solve the issue. Plastic water bottles aren't the only problem. There are too many other things made of plastic for getting rid of one product to do anything. While there won't be any water bottles filling up dumps there will be millions of other plastic objects filling them instead, making the whole ban pointless.

Scientists are currently making some dire predictions about our future. According to, "We're Now at a Million Plastic Bottles per Minute-91% of Which Are Not Recycled" by Trevor Nace, "Based on current projections, it is estimated that 12 billion metric tons of plastic will find a home in landfills by 2050." This would be a good reason to ban plastic water bottles, however, there is a simpler option. We could start recycling more instead. Source 3 also states that 91% of all plastic products ends up in the ocean or the landfill instead of being recycled. That leaves a lot of room for improvement. Imagine how much easier it would be to get more people to recycle than to ban plastic bottles altogether. Starting to recycle does not put people at risk and it can make a bigger difference. Recycling can apply to almost any plastic product. This means it could create an even bigger impact. Teaching and encouraging people to recycle would mean that nothing would have to be banned and that the problem of having too much plastic could actually be solved. Why win a battle when recycling could win the war?

It is now plain to see that plastic water bottles should not be banned. Plastic water bottles should not be banned because the water bottles are needed in some countries, it won't solve anything, and it would be easier to start recycling. That is apparent in the articles, "Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water", "Bottled Water Is Silly-But So Is Banning It", and "We're Now at a Million Plastic Bottles per Minute-91% of Which Are Not Recycled". We should wait until we find the best way to solve the issue instead of settling for a "solution" that might cause even more problems.

**4 – Purpose/Structure** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- The claim is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*We should not ban plastic water bottles because the water bottles are needed in some countries, it won't solve anything, and it would be easier to start recycling*).
- The organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the argument.
- Transitional strategies connect ideas within and among paragraphs, which creates a sense of cohesion (*While; however; Imagine; It is now*).
- An effective introduction and conclusion enhance the essay.

**4 – Development** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration includes original writing, text evidence, examples, and rhetorical techniques that enhance the argument (*Teaching and encouraging people to recycle would mean that nothing would have to be banned and that the problem of having too much plastic could actually be solved. Why win a battle when recycling could win the war?*).
- Smoothly integrated, relevant evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.
- A counterclaim is fully addressed and embedded into the argument (*This would be a good reason to ban plastic water bottles, however, there is a simpler option. We could start recycling more instead*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited.

**4 – Language** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of academic vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas (*Banning plastic water bottles would be like putting a bandaid over a bullet wound and expecting it to help; We should wait until we find the best way to solve the issue instead of settling for a "solution" that might cause even more problems*).
- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to the fluidity of ideas (*If plastic water bottles were banned many people would have no other option than to drink unfiltered water filled with bacteria and pollutants*).
- Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrate consistent command of the communication of ideas.
- Tone and voice strengthen the overall argument (*Scientists are currently making some dire predictions about our future*).

## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

4/4/4

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

There will be a point in time when a monster will take over planet Earth, unless something is done. There is a global debate going on right now, and its about plastic. More specifically, plastic bottles. Many people would say that plastic bottles should be banned because it is endagering the planet. On the other hand, there are people who think it would be ridiculous to ban plastic water bottles. Plastic water bottles need to be banned because they kill life on Earth, they are very wasteful, and there are other alternatives, such as tap, that would be more benficial.

First off, plastic water bottles need to be banned because they are a threat to life. Although some people would be very convinced that banning "...bottled water is silly", as is bluntfully stated in the title of Source 2, but in reality it isn't. The danger that plastic bottles pose to the environment is unimagineable. Yet, it is the truth. According to "Source 3: We're Now at a Million Plastic Bottles per Minute-91% of Which Are Not Recycled" there are "...articles of sea life found dead with significant amounts of plastic in their stomach". It can be analyzed that the plastic was the cause of death for all the innocent sea creatures. It extends further because then when there are no fish in the sea there will not be enough food to go around for all the livestock, humans, and other animals. Humans will be forced to hunt the animals into extinction in order to survive; consequently, there will be no food and humans as well will go extinct. Some would argue that humans will not go extinct because humans would survive on plants. However based on "Source 1: Why Tap water Is Better Than Bottled Water" "...it takes up to thee liters of water to produce one liter of bottled water". Plants need water to survive but since water bottles are not banned the water bottles will take up all the water. The plants would die. The animals would already be dead. Next it's humans. After that, there is nothing left. Therefore, plastic water bottles should be banned because it would end life on planet Earth.

Secondly water bottles should be banned because they are wasteful of money and health. In the article Source 2: Bottled Water Is Silly-But So Is Banning It" the author states that buying a water bottle "...makes absolutely no economic sense. The water in a half-liter bottle typically costs 3,000 times what the same amount of water from a spigot costs. Many people may be unaware that they are wasting money on water bottles. The solution is ban water bottles, so they are forced to be aware, and not waste their money. Some people may argue that water bottles are cleaner than tap, but it is not according to "Source 1: Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water". It is cleary stated botteled water is "...likely no safer or cleaner, experts say". Also according to the same source, water bottles "...do not break down naturally and release toxic chemicals when they finally do decompose." That would mean that society is now in danger because when the water bottles do decompose they could infect people. The only clear solution to this is to ban water bottles because they are a waste.

Lastly, water bottles should be banned because tap water is a much better alternative. In many cases the argument has been that tap is not clean, but the water undergoes treatments, filtration, and testing to make sure it is safe. According to "Source 1: Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water" "...tap water is federally regulated and oftern screened for dangerous pollutants." Since the tap water is regulated that would mean there is a guaruntee that it is safe, but with bottled water the state of the water could remain unknown. In addition, tap water is cheaper. In "Source 1: Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water" it states bottled water is "...a thousand times more than water from our faucet...". The people who struggle financially would never be able to meet the cost of bottled water. Tap would be superior because of its accessability. People would now be able to afford the water, which is a neccessity to life. Water bottles should be banned because tap is a better alternative.

Plastic water bottles are the plague of the century. They should be banned on account of they are endagering the environment. If they are not banned, very soon humans could be in trouble. Not only are they dangerous, but they waste and drain society of their money, and health. Lastly tap is just plainly a better alternative. Plastic bottles will be the monster that will take over Earth, unless they are banned.

**4 – Purpose/Structure** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- The claim is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*Plastic water bottles need to be banned because they kill life on Earth, they are very wasteful, and there are other alternatives...*).
- The organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the argument.
- Cohesion is achieved with purposeful transitional strategies that connect ideas within (*It can be analyzed; Therefore; That would mean; consequently; Next; After that; Some people may argue*) and among paragraphs (*First off; Secondly; Lastly*).
- An effective introduction and conclusion enhance the essay.

**4 – Development** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration such as original writing, text evidence, examples, and rhetorical techniques enhance the argument (*It can be analyzed that the plastic was the cause of death for all the innocent sea creatures. It extends further because then when there are no fish in the sea there will not be enough food to go around for all the livestock, humans, and other animals. Humans will be forced to hunt the animals into extinction in order to survive; consequently, there will be no food and humans as well will go extinct*).
- Smoothly integrated, relevant evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.
- Counterclaims are addressed and rebutted (*On the other hand, there are people who think it would be ridiculous to ban plastic water bottles; Some people may argue that water bottles are cleaner than tap, but it is not according to "Source 1..."*).
- Evidence is appropriately cited with source titles and author names.

**4 – Language** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of academic vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas (*other alternatives; pose; bluntfully; extinction; financially; superior; accessibility; plague; endangering*).
- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to the fluidity of ideas (*That would mean that society is now in danger because when the water bottles do decompose they could infect people*).
- Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling demonstrate consistent command of the communication of ideas.
- Tone and voice strengthen the overall argument (*The danger that plastic bottles pose to the environment is unimagineable; Plastic water bottles are the plague of the century*).



## Grade 07 Writing Q37678 ARG

Write an argumentative essay about whether or not plastic water bottles should be banned.

Take a quick moment to answer a question in your head: which is more important, convenience or safety? More than likely, you would answer with "safety." However, it's very clear that what most people would like to think they'd choose in the real world doesn't match up with reality. Thus, the plastic water bottle! It's nothing special, just a bottled water that you can pop a few quarters into the vending machine for or buy a value pack of at your local grocery store. It's the pinicle of choosing convenience over what's best in the long haul. In fact, due to factors such as extreme prices, a lack of recycling, and carbon dioxide emissions many people have been rightfully calling for the ban of bottled water. Sounds ridiculous? Well, whats worse than ridiculous is downright dangerous.

When you begin boycotting and/or banning a certain product, you have to start thinking about how you're going to replace this product. And whilst replacing bottled water is where most people would start arguing that they don't want to add to their water bill any more than they have to, they've already been doing it subconsciously. While you may be able to pop a dollar or two into a vending machine and assume that's more cost effective than taking it straight from your tap at home, there's plenty of evidence that this is plainly false. In comparison to just grabbing a glass of water from the sink, bottled water "costs us a thousand times more." (Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water) You may look at your water bill at the end of the month and grimace at the price, but you could quite literally be saving yourself a fortune by refraining from or even advocating for the ban of bottled water. And while the ladder may seem extreme for this scenario, it goes beyond the price that a single person or single household had to pay annually. The entire *world* would benefit from a ban such as this one. "Why Tap Water Is Better Than Bottled Water" suggests that over 100 billion USD is spent every single year across the globe just for plastic water bottles. Just picture how much money we as a collective world could save with a ban on these- the things we *could* be contributing this money to. Instead, we've resolved to spending it all just for a little bit more convenience.

But surely all that money spent on plastic has to be paying off, right? I mean, it's not like we're just throwing all this out the window, many people recycle their plastic goods. And you would think we'd be a little wiser with what we're spending our hard-earned goods on, but based on research reported by a Trevor Nace, "91% percent of all plastic is not recycled." And a quick bit of math will tell you that means 91 billion of the USD spent on plastic bottles is not only wasted, but that it gets thrown to landfills and the ocean. To get a better idea of what that means, Nace goes on to explain that by just 2050 the ocean is predicted to "contain more plastic...than fish." And if you surround a hungry marine animal with enough of anything it's going to find a way into their stomach whether by accident or on purpose. Furthermore, we as the human race and thus apex predators have to eat these fish that are consuming plastic waste larger than themselves. If we do not impose plastic bottle bans and *fast*, we will eventually become a target of our own mistakes. Don't want to be eating plastic garbage less than 30 years from now? Then make the right decision and fight for a bottled water ban.

Whilst plastic bottles may be costing us a fortune monetarily and physically, the impact surely stops there, right? Well, you'd be right to think that if it weren't a little something called carbon dioxide emissions and global warming. Based on research done by Sierra Club, a non-profit organization focused on saving our environment, trasnporting these plastic bottles from factories to grocery stores takes up a lot of fossil fuels. And as most people would've known from news articles and reports, burning fossil fuels gives off lots more greenhouse gases than our atmosphere can afford to take in. And with deforestation already being a huge concern with the amount of carbon dioxide there is in the air we breathe, we simply cannot afford extra contributors to this level. And the final straw is in the plastic bottle itself: polyethylene terephthalate. Which, based off of Nace's report, "takes 400 years to naturally decompose." For references, 400 years is long enough for nearly two entire kingdoms to be built up and destroyed back-to-back. By the time that the amount of plastic bottles we are just throwing away each and every day finally decompose, it might already be too late for us to do anything about their affects. Who knows if they'll decompose before a fish or deer tries to eat it, or if they'll affect the soil they've been left on. The truth is, we can't afford any more changes to our environment. We've been given *one* mother Earth and we can't do anything to hurt her.

In the end, there really is no other way to cut it. When you factor in the monetary, physical, and enivornmental price we're really paying for plastic water bottles it's plain to see. A ban is simply necessary. We'll be able to thank ourselves for it in the future. And surely as more evidence comes to the table and more attention is drawn to these issues the debate will rage on and on. And who knows where the tide will take us. Maybe we could even find a perfect middle ground. But the least we can do for right now is do ourselves a favor. A favor to save ourselves, and our planet, the trouble of contributing to what could possibly be the most dangerously convenient item on the planet.

**4 – Purpose/Structure** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- The claim (most clearly stated in the conclusion) is focused on the task and consistently maintained throughout (*When you factor in the monetary, physical, and environmental price we're really paying for plastic water bottles it's plain to see. A ban is simply necessary*).
- The organizational structure strengthens the response and allows for the advancement of the argument.
- Transitional strategies purposefully connect ideas within (*Thus; In fact; To get a better idea of what that means*) and among paragraphs (*When you begin; Furthermore; Whilst; In the end*).
- The introduction and conclusion are effective and enhance the essay.

**4 – Development** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Skillful development demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic.
- Effective elaboration includes combination of original writing, text evidence, rhetorical techniques, and paraphrasing (*And if you surround a hungry marine animal with enough of anything it's going to find a way into their stomach whether by accident or on purpose. Furthermore, we as the human race and thus apex predators have to eat these fish that are consuming plastic waste larger than themselves*).
- Smoothly integrated, relevant evidence from multiple sources lends credibility to the argument.
- Evidence is appropriately cited.
- Grade-level expectations for the counterclaim are fully addressed (*And whilst replacing bottled water is where most people would start arguing that they don't want to add to their water bill any more than they have to, they've already been doing it subconsciously*).

**4 – Language** – Above grade-level accomplishment demonstrated

- Integration of skillful vocabulary strengthens and furthers ideas (*And with deforestation already being a huge concern with the amount of carbon dioxide there is in the air we breathe, we simply cannot afford extra contributors to this level*).
- Skillful use of varied sentence structure contributes to fluidity of ideas.
- Grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling all demonstrate a consistent command of the communication of ideas.
- Tone and voice strengthen the overall argument and give a sense that the student is pleading with the reader to see things from their point of view (*The truth is, we can't afford any more changes to our environment. We've been given one mother Earth and we can't do anything to hurt her*).