

Task:

Student Directions

Keeping the Community Clean Argumentative Performance Task

Task:

While riding to school, you notice people along the side of the road who are picking up litter. You are surprised to see that they even have an old computer monitor in the pile of litter they have collected. You notice a sign that has the name of a local community service club. You wonder why these people are cleaning the side of the road. You decide to do some research and find four sources about the topic.

After you have reviewed these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly skim the sources and the questions that follow. Then, go back and read the sources carefully so you will have the information you will need to answer the questions and finalize your research. You may click on the Global Notes button to take notes on the information you find in the sources as you read. You may also use scratch paper to take notes.

In Part 2, you will write an argumentative essay on a topic related to the sources.

Directions for Beginning:

You will now examine several sources. You can re-examine any of the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:

After examining the sources, use the rest of the time in Part 1 to answer question(s) about them. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the information you have read and viewed, which should help you write your argumentative essay.

You may click on the Global Notes button or refer back to your scratch paper to review your notes when you think it would be helpful. Answer the questions in the spaces below the items.

Both the Global Notes on the computer and your written notes on scratch paper will be available to you in Part 1 and Part 2 of the performance task.

Part 1

Sources for Performance Task:

Source #1

This article from a travel brochure is about programs that help keep highways clean.

Keep Our Roadsides Beautiful

Driving along America's highways is one of our nation's favorite pastimes. Many Americans love to drive for sightseeing, vacations, and relaxation.

Today, there are more than 4 million miles of roads and streets in the United States. Drivers and passengers can enjoy mile after scenic mile of grass, trees, waterways, farms, forests, wildflowers, and wildlife.

But imagine if those "scenic" miles were cluttered with bags, cans, and all kinds of trash and junk. This might be hard to imagine today, yet it was very common 50 years ago.

In the late 1950s, the United States was considering building a highway system. Before then, America was a spider web of roads that twisted through small towns from coast to coast. The proposed highways would link major cities so people could have quick and easy access to airports, landmarks, and other key locations. As these highways were built and more vehicles traveled them, they became littered with all kinds of unsightly trash. It was ugly to look at and a danger to wildlife. But what could be done to solve the problem?

On September 16, 1965, President Johnson signed the Highway Beautification Act. He believed that "beauty belongs to all the people." President Johnson wanted to limit billboards and other advertising along America's highways. He also wanted to eliminate junkyards and other roadside messes. The Highway Beautification Act was a big success. The roadways were cleaner and safer—and the people of America were participating in the process. But there was *still* work to do!

In 1985, the people of Texas had an idea to address roadside littering in their own state. They developed a campaign called "Adopt-a-Highway." The program encouraged groups of volunteers to work together to keep small sections of Texas highways free of litter. In return for volunteering, the groups could put their names on specially designed blue-and-white signs posted along the roadways.

Texas's Adopt-a-Highway program was so successful that other states wanted to start similar programs. Over the years, the program has spread to many other states. Though the overall goal remains the same, each state can design a plan that fits its own needs. Celebrities and corporations joined forces to encourage everyone to support Adopt-a-Highway and other programs in their own communities.

The next time you travel America's highways, enjoy the beautiful scenery. But remember all the ideas, innovations, and hard work that went into making it a safe, clean, and healthy place to travel too!

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Source #2

This article from *Highlights for Children* magazine is about a man who has inspired people to join him in keeping shorelines free of litter.

Tackling the Trash

by Jill Esbaum

Not many people would spend their free time picking up other people's litter. But Chad Pregracke has spent most of the past five years doing just that along the Mississippi, Ohio, and Illinois Rivers.

Why?

Chad grew up in a house alongside the Mississippi. He loved to fish and camp on the river's wooded islands. That's when he first noticed the junk dotting its shoreline. Many other boaters and campers used the river, too. Unfortunately, some of them didn't care where they threw their trash.

Spring floods added to the clutter. When flood waters went down, they left behind everything from tin cans to 55-gallon steel drums, from tires to TV sets.

"It was getting worse every year," Chad says. "And nobody was cleaning it up."

In May of 1997, Chad came home from college for summer vacation. As usual, he was disgusted by the junk that littered the riverbanks near his hometown of East Moline, Illinois. But this time, instead of wondering why someone else didn't clean it up, he decided to tackle a few miles of shoreline himself.

With only a flat-bottomed boat, a wheelbarrow, and a sturdy pair of gloves, he motored up and down the river. Whenever he spotted trash, he pulled to shore and picked it up. When his boat was full, he took the load to a landfill. Chad even took pictures of the junk he hauled away. "I thought it might be fun to see how much trash I could pick up," he says.

Soon the riverbanks near his hometown were litter-free. And Chad was hooked. "I really enjoyed it," he says. "I could see the results day after day. It made me feel good to help my community." So he kept going, sleeping under a tarp each night.

But Chad's money was disappearing fast. Food, gasoline for his boat, landfill charges, and film costs were gobbling up his resources. He wondered if others would help support his cleanup.

First Chad talked to government agencies like the National Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While happy about his work, they didn't have much money to donate.

So Chad called area businesses. He explained about growing up beside the river, the mess it had become, and his determination to clean it up. Most companies wouldn't help either. But finally one company decided to lend a hand. Chad got his first small grant and the encouragement he needed to find others to help as well.

Chad began visiting other companies in person and found that his careful record keeping paid off. People couldn't help being impressed by his enthusiasm, or by the pictures of the junk he'd already hauled away. The next year, Chad received enough money to finish his summer's work with several volunteers to help him. In two years he raised enough money to buy two more boats and hire five helpers for the next summer.

In 1998, Chad's goal was to clean 1,000 miles of shoreline. Beginning in northern Iowa, he and his crew slowly worked their way south. Their final destination was St. Louis, Missouri. Along the way, Chad had to receive permission from each town to pile his junk in a parking lot or field. When he finished each area, he trucked the trash to the nearest landfill.

As the hot summer wore on, the work became more difficult. The farther south they traveled, the more trash littered the shore. One mile of shoreline was so full of old tires it took more than a month to clean—one small boatload at a time. Sheltered only by tents and tarps, Chad and his crew battled mosquitoes and summer storms. By summer's end only Chad and one helper remained on the job. When cold weather forced them to stop, they were just fifty miles from St. Louis.

Chad didn't spend the winter months catching up on sleep. He needed to raise more money. Part of the money would go toward finishing his work near St. Louis. The rest would fund his next project, cleaning the 270-mile shoreline of the Illinois River.

Chad also traveled from town to town. He spoke at schools, churches, and town halls. He shared his story with community groups, conservation clubs, and Scout troops. He asked them to help keep the river clean.

People were eager to help. Someone even offered him a used houseboat for free. There was only one catch: it was resting on the muddy bottom of the Illinois River. "It was a real mess," Chad remembers. "The most totally trashed thing you've seen in your life."

After a lot of repair work and elbow grease, *The Miracle* became the crew's floating home and headquarters—a big step up from tents and tarps.

In 2000, Chad began hosting community-wide cleanup days in cities along the Mississippi. "I want to get as many people involved as possible," he says.

Toward that goal, Chad encourages individuals and community groups to participate in his Adopt-a-Mississippi-Mile program, pledging to keep a mile of shoreline litter-free.

Chad did return to college in 2001 and received his associate's degree. But for now, Chad is devoting himself to the river, and cleaning it up has taken over his life.

But he doesn't mind one bit. "I work with good people who have become my best friends," he says. "I love it."

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Source #3

This article from *Time for Kids* magazine explains why electronic waste is a problem and gives possible solutions to this problem.

Tech Trash

New Technology Causes Trouble for Recyclers
by Cameron Keady

Picture a wasteland of old computer monitors and TVs stretching as far as the eye can see. Imagine towers of boxes, all of them filled with broken glass and discarded electronic devices.

Technology dumps like this can be found in communities across the country. Experts say that landfills and warehouses will overflow unless a plan for the disposal and reuse of electronics is put into place. "We can't put electronics and glass aside and tell ourselves we'll deal with them later," Lauren Roman, managing director of TransparentPlanet told TFK [Time For Kids]. "Later has been going on for a long time and the piles continue to grow." Roman's group works to improve the disposal of electronic waste. She says about 660 million pounds of tech trash is produced each year in the United States.

The Trouble with Tubes

What's behind the tech trash pile-up? Years ago, major advances were made in computer and television technology. Manufacturers began producing devices like flat-paneled LCDs and plasma screen monitors. These new products provide a clearer image and take up less space than older models. "Flat-paneled plasmas and LEDs are putting bulky, glass-based technologies out of the market," says Jason Linnell of the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse.

The new electronics are built with materials that are difficult to recycle. In addition, the new products have decreased the demand for recycled parts from the older monitors and screens. Older, bulkier computer monitors and TVs used glass-based components called cathode ray tubes, or CRTs.

CRTs have a high lead content and can be environmentally hazardous if not recycled properly. If crushed and put in landfills, the lead from CRTs could seep into groundwater and rivers, contaminating the water supply. For many years, plants and recycling programs safely processed CRTs. The recycled CRTs were reused in the construction of new monitors.

Monitors being made today do not use glass tubes. "People are returning old-style TVs with CRTs, but no new ones are being made," said Linnell. This is creating an imbalance in the amount of glass being disposed of and recycled properly. Many recycling companies have shut down. Others no longer have the resources or space to process these materials. This results in stockpiling.

Be a Part of the Solution

Experts say there are ways to safely and responsibly address the tech-trash problem. Barbara Kyle is the national coordinator of the Electronics TakeBack Coalition. The organization encourages people to donate their old, but functioning, electronics to charities or neighbors who will use them. "It's better for the planet if we keep using an electronic for as long as it keeps working," Kyle told TFK in an e-mail. "But many times, we stop using it even though it still works, because we got a newer product."

Students can also be a part of the solution. Schools can organize take-back programs, or set up recycling projects to collect used electronics. They can also work with responsible electronics recyclers, called e-Stewards, to handle their old devices. Many electronics manufacturers also provide a return program where consumers can send back devices that they no longer use. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 25 states now have laws that deal with the disposal and recycling of electronics. Most of these laws require manufacturers to pay for collection and recycling at the end of a product's life.

Through these various programs and organizations, consumers can reduce tech trash and become part of the solution. . . .

Tech Trash by Cameron Keady. Copyright © 2013 by Time, Inc. Reprinted by permission of Time, Inc.

Source #4

This article from *Odyssey* magazine is about the importance of recycling computer waste.

Tech-Trash Tragedy

by Liam O'Donnell

In our wired world, technology moves at a laser-fast pace. Every day, a new gadget arrives and promises to bring us the future, today. In the race for faster computers and more powerful gadgets, it's easy to forget about yesterday's high-tech wonders.

Unfortunately, many times used computers and gadgets end up in landfills across the country. Each year, we throw away millions of computers. . . . That is not good news for the environment. To make our gadgets work, many of them use materials like lead and mercury. When mercury and lead end up in a landfill, they spread poisons into the earth, water, and air for miles around. This is called e-waste—and it's becoming a big pollution problem around the world.

Big problems call for big solutions, so adults and kids from dozens of countries are working hard to clean up our e-waste. And you can help, too.

Turning Old Into New

The trick to reducing e-waste is to catch it before it gets into the landfill. That's why the seventh-grade students at Cityside Middle School in Zeeland, Michigan, organized a computer drop-off event. They put up posters and spread the word around the town, telling people to bring out their old computers.

And the people of Zeeland got the message. They dropped off dozens of old computers, monitors, and printers at the school. Craig Greshaw, the school's computer teacher who helped organize the event, believes that knowing about computers goes beyond surfing the Web. "Part of that is learning about the chemicals inside the computers and what needs to be done with them to keep them safe," he told the *Holland Sentinel* during the recycling drive. With their school gym filled with old computers, the students were ready for the next step in cleaning up the high-tech trash: turning old computers into new ones.

That's where companies like RePC step in. The Seattle company takes e-waste and turns it into e-gold. "Almost all of the parts of a computer can be reused or recycled," says Mark Dabek, owner of RePC. Any computer parts that can't be reused or sold get recycled in a way that is better for the environment. "The circuit boards are sent to a circuit board recycler that chops them and sends them to a facility with a very, very hot furnace called the 'reactor,'" Dabek says. After the computer parts are safely crushed and burned, their raw materials can be reused to make everything from appliances to office buildings.

Sometimes you can make a new computer from the parts of an old computer. Called refurbishing, it's what the tech whizzes at RePC do best. Buying a refurbished computer is a lot cheaper than buying a new one. But who wants a computer made up of old parts?

A lot of people, actually. Places like schools and community centers are often short on money, but need computers to help them get things done. . . .

Computers aren't the only technology that can be reused. Last year, schools in New Mexico gave old cell phones a new lease on life while also helping to raise money for charity. The students collected 11 garbage bags of old cell phones, sold them to a cell phone refurbishing company, donated the money to charity, and helped keep the environment clean—all at the same time. . . .

Computers are an important part of our wired world. It's up to us to reduce the amount of pollution they create on our planet. Talking to others about e-waste is a great way to start tackling the problem. Speak to your teacher about organizing a computer collection drive at your school. Next time your baseball team is raising money, try collecting old cell phones. By working together for a clean future, we can reduce the amount of e-waste on our planet.

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Student Directions

Keeping the Community Clean Argumentative Performance Task

Part 2

You will now review your notes and sources, and plan, draft, revise, and edit your writing. You may use your notes and refer to the sources. Now read your assignment and the information about how your writing will be scored; then begin your work.

Your Assignment:

Your school is planning for an upcoming community service project. The student council has come up with two ideas, but there is only time for your school to focus on one service project. The student council president has asked you for a recommendation about whether the school should agree to clean a section of a highway or host a technology recycling day. She will share your recommendation with the principal to help decide on this year's community service project.

Your assignment is to use the sources to write a multi-paragraph argumentative essay for the principal in which you recommend adopting a highway or hosting a technology recycling day as your school's community service project. Make sure you establish an argumentative claim and support your claim with reasons and details from the sources you have read. Clearly organize your article and elaborate on your ideas. Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the sources. Be sure to identify the sources by title or number when using details or facts directly from the sources.

Argumentative Essay Scoring:

Your argumentative essay will be scored using the following:

1. **Organization/purpose:** How well did you state and maintain your claim with a logical progression of ideas from beginning to end? How well did your ideas thoughtfully flow from beginning to end using effective transitions? How effective were your introduction and your conclusion?
2. **Evidence/elaboration:** How well did you integrate relevant and specific information from the sources? How well did you elaborate your ideas? How well did you clearly state ideas in your own words using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose? How well did you reference the sources you used by title or number?
3. **Conventions:** How well did you follow the rules of grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

Now begin work on your argumentative essay. Manage your time carefully so that you can

- plan your multi-paragraph argumentative essay.
- write your multi-paragraph argumentative essay.
- revise and edit the final draft of your multi-paragraph argumentative essay.

Word-processing tools and spell check are available to you.

For Part 2, you are being asked to write a multi-paragraph argumentative essay so please be as thorough as possible. Type your response in the space provided. The box will expand as you type.

Remember to check your notes and your prewriting/planning as you write and then revise and edit your argumentative essay.

Name: Amelia

My name is William and I want to tell you that I want this school to host a technology recycling day as are schools community service project. I will prove to you why we should do this. One is that we need to recycle bad technology for the health of our community. Another reason why is to stop overfilling our landfill with technology by recycling all of the tech. The last reason why is that we need to stop throwing away tech around the school and community. Now you will learn more about those reasons.

We need to recycle the technology we don't need anymore. This I know, because when we throw our technology away the lead and mercury in the computers, TVs, etc. our air gets polluted. Not just the air but the water we drink and the water for the underwater life. It also poisons the Earth. Within the CRTs in computers contains a whole lot of lead the can be really Hazardous to the Earth. The text in Tech Trash says, "If crushed and put in landfills, the lead from CRTs could seep into ground water and rivers..." This is why we need to recycle the technology we aren't going to use any more

We need to stop from overfilling landfills with technology and recycle it into something new. A company called RePc take the parts of old computers and make new ones out of the old parts. "Almost all of the parts in a PC can be reused or recycled." Mark Dabek said in source four. The circuit boards can be sent to a circuit board recycling place and can be made into appliances to office buildings. There sure are a quite a few more facts I have found. And when RePc refurbishes computers the just get used again. It's like the computer are indestructible. This is how we can stop overfilling are landfills around the world.

We need to stop throwing away the technology we do not need. By doing this we can stop the Earth from getting poisoned. The Earth and water will be more fresh than it has been for a long time. But the question is: Where will the tech go? We can sell it to the companies that refurbishes computers, phones, and TVs. Most people think its okay to throw away technology but we aren't those people. We aren't those people by picking up the technology that looks like garbage and recycle it. Like the schools in New Mexico we can collect bags of old cell phones and sell them ta a cell phone refurbishing company and then we can donate that money. We need to keep this world healthy and strong by hosting a technology recycling day.

These tree reasons show that we should host a technology recycling day. These three reasons were that we need to recycle technology we do bot need. The next one is that we need to stop overfilling the landfills around the world. The last one is We need to not throw away technology trash. I mostly think the main reason we should do this so we can make the Earth, water, and the air cleaner and safer. The other reason is so we can make money so we can donate to charity. Now you know why we need to host a technology recycling day in the community.

Name: Oliver

Did you know that electronics are spreading poison through water, air, and earth. Imagine this seeing poison in your drinking water so you can't drink it. That's what electronics are doing to our water poisoning it. Trash only makes stuff look ugly, electronics poison the environment and water

Electronics cause wasteland of old electronics for miles and miles. First of all experts state that landfills and warehouses will be filled unless some plans to recycle old gadgets. Next the bulkier the glass the more containment in the water. And last technology dumps are found in cities all over the country

Technology causes trouble with the tubes. New electronic building materials are difficult to recycle. CRTs have high lead properties that can be extremely hazardous if not recycled. For many years, plants and recycle programs safely used CRTs

technology piles up because of how many we throw away too many. The bulkier the glass is the more trash builds up. The U.S.A deposits over 660 million pounds of every year. More and more electronics are made everyday and more and more are thrown away. Many people say that trash is more dangerous but they're wrong because experts state that landfills and warehouses will be filled unless some plans to recycle old gadgets new electronic building materials are difficult to recycle and the U.S.A deposits over 660 million pounds of every year. More and more electronics are made everyday and more and more are thrown away.

All of the evidence states that technology is more dangerous than trash for that is what the claims state

Name: Charlotte

Electronic waste is becoming a large issue in communities all around the United States. This is why I personally think that we should host a technology recycling event at our school. I think we should proceed with this plan because hundreds of millions of pounds of electronics is disposed of every year, these wasted electronics cause lots of damage to the environment, and electronic waste does way more damage than normal trash.

First off, 660 million pounds of electronic waste is produced every year in the United States alone. This is an issue we need to solve because all of this waste piles up in junkyards and in trashcans. If we keep this up, the human race is not going to be able to scoop it all up. In addition, many people in the community have electronics that are broken or they simply do not have a use for them anymore. So, this event would collect lots of electronics and gain lots of attention in the community. Though, we will not be able to solve the problem of 660 million pound of electronics being wasted, we will be able to at least reduce that number. Thus, hosting an event to recycle electronics would be more helpful because of the amount of electronics that are wasted.

Secondly, electronics being wasted cause more problems than you think. For instance, older and bulkier technologies contain lead, mercury, and glass. When they are crushed and put into landfills the lead and mercury seep into the groundwater and rivers, when this happens, it contaminates not only our water supply but, it also contaminates the water supply for the animals who live there. Furthermore, all of this broken glass, mercury, and lead sitting in landfills can be a terrible hazard for plants, animals, and us. This shows that electronic waste has a very large and negative impact on the environment.

Lastly, an event to recycle your electronics would be way more beneficial than cleaning a section of the highway. For example if a piece of trash and an old tv were thrown into a junkyard, the tv would do more damage to the environment than the piece of trash due to the tv's hazardous chemicals. Also, trash is way easier to recycle than electronics, so it would be way more worth it to recycle lots of electronics than lots of trash. This proves that we should recycle electronics because of their impact on the earth.

In conclusion, both trash and electronic waste are terrible for the planet and the things that live on it, so we should host an event to recycle electronics.

Name: Elijah

I believe that the school should pick up the trash because it will be good for the environment and so that there wont be so much incidents .also its a good dead to do that also its not that bad to clean up after your self.Theres more it whont kill the animals. And too back this up i have thes from sorce 1 if we cleand up after are selfs ther whould be no reson to have junkyards and the roads will be nice and there would be less ncidents. also if we didnt clean up some of the trash will go evrey where and if i got in to the water it could pulut the the water and the fish . It could also go and kill are live stolk. The efect of that will be the fish dieing and and then the water will be infected and then the birds die then are live stolk. also it will kill are plants then one by on the humans will start dying then then the world will start dying then the world dies . so if we did clean not so many animals will die then evrey thing will be good birds whont get caght in six pack caryers and they whont choke and die. and that is whey you should clean up so the animals whont die and we dont die ibeleive if we keep doning this the world whould end some day and if it gets wors it whont tern out all write.

Name: Sophia

Side walks, Roads, rivers, and lakes should all be clean. If we don't do this the earth will die faster. All the trash and junk on sidewalks and roads will pollute the air. The Adopt a Highway program was very successful. I think it was very useful as well.

Technology recycling day would be great because it means there wont be destroyed TV-s or broken laptops on sidewalks. It will help the community because garbage and trash pollutes the air. If we stop the garbage and trash, the world will live longer.

Name: Mateo

Under the current time circumstances, one of two activities must be chosen superior to the other. The two activities are: a technology recycling day, and the 'adoption' of a highway. The superior choice is likely the most environmentally helpful one. This would be a technology recycling day.

A technology recycling day would greatly help the environment. Technology trash is becoming an increasing problem. Time for Kids describes technology dumps as, "...a wasteland of old computer monitors and TVs stretching as far as the eye can see." Tech dumps like the one described can be found all over the country. And the worst of it is that computers are made of lead and mercury. According to Odyssey Magazine, "When mercury and lead end up in a landfill, they spread poisons into the earth, water, and air for miles around." Having a technology recycling day would help solve this. If we send our recycled computers to a company that responsibly recycles them, we can be a part of saving the environment.

So why should we not 'adopt' a highway? Well, adopting a highway would be helping the environment. But adopting a highway would clean up a small portion of trash left by the roadside. Having a technology recycling day would be a chance for students to recycle old computers. And if enough students participate in technology recycling day, we could recycle a lot of computers that would otherwise be a danger to the environment.

All in all, a technology recycling day would greatly help our environment. It would save space in technology dumps, and it would protect animals from lead and mercury.

Name: Mia

I think its a good idea for people to clean up after themselves its nasty to see trash every where also animals can die from eating trash even sea animals can die from eating trash it can get stuck in there bodys and they can die. Sometimes sea animals eat plastic because they think its a human and sometimes the sea animals don't realize what there eating so they just eat it anyway. Also its a good idea to pick up trash because little kids like to put stuff in there mouth and they can get sick and die it also spreads germs. Alot of people like to enjoy the clean ground on there vactions not to see tarsh all over the ground.. Another reason why its good to pick up trash when you leave glass on the ground and people don't see the glass they can step on it and it can get stuck in there foot and they have to get it out. Alot of people should help others to pick up trash not to sit there and litter you can get in troublr if you litter you have to pay 1000 dollars if the cops find trash on the ground. Those are mt reason why you should pick up trash.

Name: Lucas

When deciding on what community service project to focus on, you must consider the impact of each choice and the long-term effects. Therefore, I believe that our school should host a technology recycling day, rather than a highway cleanup. I believe this because of littering of technology's impact, the amount of technology littered, and the popularity of the subject.

Technology in our country is getting more and more popular every day. From a teenager getting their first phone, to an adult getting their first job, which requires a computer, technology is getting more important in our daily lives. And it is developing. Almost every year, people await the new version of a phone by Apple, or the latest advancement in a computer Microsoft has made. But what is the lasting impact that comes from these new developments? One thing that these developments cause is difficulty in recycling. Because of these new and improved versions of computers, phones, and other electronic devices, people are throwing away old devices, such as large and bulky computer monitors, or flip-phones. This causes problems when recycling materials used in these computers. For example, old computers used CRTs, which are glass-based materials that are also known as cathode ray tubes. Computers these days don't use CRTs, so recycling plants can't refurbish these materials to create old computers. If a recycling plant can't safely recycle these objects, then the high lead content within them can become dangerous to the environment. As written in Source #3, "If crushed and put into landfills, the lead from CRTs could seep into groundwater and rivers, contaminating the water supply." This can be harmful to humans and animals. On highways, litter on the ground may look ugly to humans and be harmful to animals, but if water supply is contaminated, it can have terrible effects on humans and animals alike. However, if our school organizes a computer drop-off event, we can take the computers to companies like RePC to refurbish the old computer parts. This way, lead poisoning or other harmful effects from these computers can be prevented.

Technology has become an extremely important part of our country, and very many companies are using that to their advantage and creating very high-tech devices that become very popular. But what about the previous versions of these devices? People will just buy the new version, and will no longer want the old one. "It's better for the planet if we keep using an electronic for as long as it keeps working," Barbara Kyle, the national coordinator of the Electronics TakeBack Coalition says. "But many times, we stop using it even though it still works, because we got a newer product." With new developments every day, the amount of electronics being recycled is growing larger and larger. This isn't good for the environment. If we don't take action, the harmful effects of these computers and other devices will become more common, and the environment, humans, and animals will be harmed. Currently, there are many acts to stop highway littering, and the amount of litter is becoming smaller. However, the amount of electronics being recycled is just getting larger.

Despite the fact that the amount of electronics being recycled is very large, most people seem to think that the problem is very small, or even not there at all. Many people are ignorant to the fact that their old computer monitor can have bad effects on their local water supply or can pollute the earth or air. Because of this, people continue to throw out their devices without thinking about the effects or taking action upon them. Lots of people have heard of the Adopt-a-Highway program. You can see signs for it on almost every highway you drive on. However, the advertisements for recycling electronics are not very common. In 2013, only half of the states in the U.S. had passed laws about recycling and disposing of electronics. In 1965, President Johnson passed the Highway Beautification Act, which was very successful in helping to clean up highways. Many people and organizations have helped deal with litter on the highway. Not too many have helped re purpose old electronics. That is why our school should change that and help stop environmental impacts caused by the littering of old electronics.

Both littering on the highway and improper recycling of old electronics are terrible problems that our country faces. However, not many people know about the impact of littering technology, or the amount of technology littered, or even that it is a problem at all! That is why our school should host a technology recycling day, rather than a highway cleanup.

Name: Isabella

I think it would be best for us to do a Technology recycling day for our community service project because it would help the environment and we would be helping ourselves with the electronic waste problem. There are very few ways to recycle electronics and I think this would be a great way to learn and know how we could get rid of our electronics in a safe way. And this would also be really good for our community.

The electronic trash is very dangerous and can seriously harm the environment. Electronic trash is really hard to get rid of and it is hard to recycle too. Now with all of this new technology and devices that we humans are making the materials and chemicals that are in them are really hard to get rid of. In the landfills the piles of electronic waste are piling up and going higher and higher every week. There are boxes of old cellphones and piles of old TV's, computers and even printers, with all this waste that don't know what to do with it anymore. This is why we should do a technology recycling day and the community can bring bags of all there old electronics that they aren't using anymore. Most of the electronic devices are not being recycled properly since there is just too many and recycling centers can't take any more in since these devices are just piling up. And it takes a long process to recycle these electronic devices.

Are you asking yourself why is there any electronic waste in the first place? Well, it's because many years ago there were great advances in the technology of computers and televisions. They started making new modern things like flat-paneled LCD's and plasma screen monitors. These new technologies and products take up less space than older devices/models and other than that they provide a clearer image than others. These new products have materials that are difficult to recycle. These new electronic devices have decreased the demand of recycled parts from older monitors and screens. Older designs have glass-based components called cathode ray tubes, or CRTs. CRTs can be really hazardous to the environment if not recycled right because of it's high lead content. If we just throw this and crush it in landfills, the lead from it can leak out and then it will go into groundwater and rivers, and in the process of this it would be contaminating our water supply. Since the devices today don't use much glass, it creates an imbalance of the glass being recycled properly and the glass being disposed of this instant. A lot of recycling companies have shut down and there are no longer other resources to store or process these materials and the results are the stockpiling that is happening.

In conclusion, the reason in why we should do this technology recycling day is to help and keep clean our school, the community, our environment and the world. This event will also help students learn responsibility by knowing what to do when they have a electronic devices they want to get rid of. Let's all do our part to take care of the world as it takes care of us.

Name: Henry

If I had to pick to either adopt a highway or host a technology recycling day, I would pick to adopt a highway. If we adopt a highway it will help the environment to be more clean and

healthier. First reason, why I would pick to adopt a highway would be because in source #1 it says that the program called Adopt-a-Highway encouraged groups of volunteers.

They worked together to keep sections of Texas highways clean . For volunteering the groups got to put their names on special designed blue-and-white signs posted along the roadways. After they finished some highways the program was so successful that other states started to do similar programs. So if we adopt a highway then we will be able to encourage people to also adopt one. Second reason, is because in source #2 it talks about someone's experience of how he liked a river that got all dirty and littered. The person that experienced that was a man named Chad. When Chad was young he liked to go to a river to fish and camp on the river's wooded islands but as other people went it started to get littered and ever year was worse. When he grew up he started to clean the riverbanks around his hometown but as he did this he's money was going low . So then he was able to get a company to give him his first small grant then he started working with people.

As the seasons came though it would only be Chad and another person but finally he was able to clean the

ivers. In conclusion, I would pick to adopt a highway because of the reasons I gave. Also we will be able to help a lot the environment .

Name: Luna

I think we should all work together and clean after each other. maybe it would be easier for people to have a trash can in your car. maybe we need more trashcans on the sidewalks? but having to through trash on the road is very dangres. People can get into car accidens beacuse the car maybe can slip on it so the driver cant turn.

Name: Eduardo

Recycling- the process of using items over and over again, and not throwing them away. Recycling is an extremely important matter in our community today, especially in technology. Companies such as Apple and Samsung create new and improved inventions for everyday uses. Because of this, some people just throw away used electronics even if they are still working, which basically means they are not recycling. Throwing away electronics and not recycling them can contaminate water with lead for instance, and would result in poisonous water. Remember, animals drink water too, and as a result, it would contaminate them too. In addition, old computer parts could actually make new computers, in which people could buy them for a cheaper price. For the upcoming school service project, our school should host a technology recycling day because it would teach them that throwing away electronics actually hurts us and animals, it would be safer, and benefit our community.

First, hosting a technology recycling day would be a better option than to adopt a highway because it would show them how they are affecting our community and others. In other words, it would teach them that throwing away electronics actually hurts us and animals. Some people may not think that recycling electronics is not a big issue, when it really is. In "Tech-Trash Tragedy," by Liam O' Donnell, it states, "Each year we throw away millions of computers....That is not good news for the environment" (O' Donnell). This would teach them that by throwing away technology, it contaminates our waters, earth, and air over a long distance. Therefore, it would harm us and animals because we would not have clean water to drink. In addition, recycling computers would benefit other schools too. For example, sometimes, even after fundraisers, schools do not have enough money to provide computers for each classroom, or even buy a set. In "Tech-Trash Tragedy," it says, "Places like schools and centers are often short on money, but need computers to help them get things done...." (O' Donnell). There is actually a solution: recycling computers. Old computer parts can actually help make new ones, in which people could also purchase them for a cheaper price. As a result, students would learn that recycling technology would benefit their schools, and would possibly spread this news to others, including family members. Therefore, holding a technology recycling day would be a better option because it would show students that throwing away electronics actually harms us and animals.

Second, this choice would be better than to empty a highway of litter because it would be safer. For example, if a child gets hurt while picking up trash while in the school's care, the parents would be able to sue us and we would lose money. However, the children are not only the important thing. Some parents might not be comfortable sending their child into a highway without them. For instance, someone could kidnap them and drive off, or something even worse could happen. I do not think we should take the chances of risking students' lives just to pick up litter. Even though in "Keep Our Roadsides Beautiful" it states, "But what can we do?" (Keep Our Roadsides Beautiful), I still do not think we should take the chances and should go with the idea of having a technology recycling day.

Third, this would benefit many communities, including ours. In "Tech-Trash Tragedy," it states, "But who wants a computer made up of old parts? A lot of people, actually" (O' Donnell). Some families like certain schools do not have the money to buy brand new computers. Recycling computers would help other families in need of computers financially. This choice will not only help needy families, but also help spread it all around to our community. In Source #4, it states, "Big problem call for big solutions, so adults and kids from dozens of countries are working hard too clean up our e-waste" (O' Donnell). This proves that we need many people to reduce this problem in our community, and if the word that electronic recycling improves our world, it will likely be a success in our community. However, this would also benefit many other communities, not just ours. People will catch on that discarding electronics harms us and animals from various sources, and if recycling electronics occurs in all communities, our whole world would benefit.

Overall, for this upcoming school event, having a school technology recycling day would be a much better path to take because it would teach students what discarding electronics does to us and animals, it would be safer, and it would benefit many communities. Electronic recycling is a huge, and major problem in our world and evryone needs to take part and help our communities fix it. It might take a while for everyone to participate, but it is better to have some people to do it than no one. Many people may disagree with my choice, but I believe this is the best decision is the best way to go in this matter. I hope this is effective in your decision and for the upcoming school event, and please consider this in your choice.

