



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

## Bag Tax

### Bring Your Own Bag



#### Claim and Focus

A clear stance on the issue - whether or not to support the 25-cent fee - is never addressed. The author instead presents his opinion on the use of plastic bags, therefore the demands of the prompt are not met. Attempts are made to argue why plastic bags are a problem ("ends up in the ocean," seagulls example), but there is no connection made between these ideas and the author's position on the issue as the prompt dictates.



#### Support and Evidence

Reasoning and support (the documentary and seagulls examples) are present, however they are not connected to a position on the fee, because a clear claim was never introduced. Instead, the evidence appears disjointed, explaining the writer's opinion of why readers shouldn't use plastic bags at all.



#### Organization

The essay does not have a clear organizational scheme (single paragraph) and it is difficult to follow the progression of ideas. Transitions are minimal, but sometimes show how ideas relate ("Then they go to eat the bag and it ends up choking them").



#### Language and Style

While some appropriate vocabulary is selected ("documentary," "beneficial"), a consistent audience-appropriate tone is not maintained ("Plastic bags are the worst," "There was this documentary"). Syntax is simplistic, but attempts at more complex sentence structure lead to run-ons ("There was this documentary..." "Change the way we live...").



#### Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

## Bag Tax



### Bring Your Own Bag

Plastic bags are the worst and I don't think anybody should use them. If you don't bring your own bag then too bad you have to carry it with your hands or leave them there. There was this documentary in Europe where the guy didn't have his own bag and he didn't want to pay for the plastic bag so he carried his groceries all the way to where he was staying. When a plastic bag ends up in the ocean or near the beach, seagulls may think that it's food. Then they go to eat the bag and it ends up choking them. Do you want to kill a seagull? We think not, so please, use paper instead of plastic. But it would be most beneficial to the seagulls if we all would use reusable grocery bags. So the next time you go to the supermarket, bring a bag, save a seagull, and help the world. Change the way we live and stop using plastic if you don't do it for you do it for the world.