

TCAP Writing Operational Test

TCAP/WA

DIRECTIONS

In a few moments, you will see a passage(s) and a prompt. You are to plan and write an essay about the passage(s) according to the instructions provided in the prompt. This activity will show how well you write. Express your thoughts clearly and make your writing interesting to the reader. Your essay will be scored as a rough draft, but you should watch for careless errors.

Before writing, spend some time reading the passage(s), thinking about the prompt, and planning your thoughts.

WRITE ONLY ON THE PROMPT AND PASSAGE(S) YOU ARE GIVEN.

The time you have for writing is 60 minutes.

**PROMPT B – GRADE 5 WRITING ASSESSMENT
TENNESSEE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (TCAP)
2013 OPERATIONAL TEST**

The following articles deal with littering and pollution.

Drinking Water: Bottled or from the Tap?

by Catherine Clarke Fox

If your family is like many in the United States, unloading the week’s groceries includes hauling a case or two of bottled water into your home. On your way to a soccer game or activity, it’s easy to grab a cold one right out of the fridge, right?

But all those plastic bottles use a lot of fossil fuels and pollute the environment. In fact, Americans buy more bottled water than any other nation in the world, adding 29 billion water bottles a year to the problem. In order to make all these bottles, manufacturers use 17 million barrels of crude oil. That’s enough oil to keep a million cars going for twelve months.

Imagine a water bottle filled a quarter of the way up with oil. That’s about how much oil was needed to produce the bottle.

So why don’t more people drink water straight from the kitchen faucet? Some people drink bottled water because they think it is better for them than water out of the tap, but that’s not true. In the United States, local governments make sure water from the faucet is safe. There is also growing concern that chemicals in the bottles themselves may leach into the water.

People love the convenience of bottled water. But maybe if they realized the problems it causes, they would try drinking from a glass at home or carrying water in a refillable steel container instead of plastic.

Plastic bottle recycling can help—instead of going out with the trash, plastic bottles can be turned into items like carpeting or cozy fleece clothing.

Unfortunately, for every six water bottles we use, only one makes it to the recycling bin. The rest are sent to landfills. Or, even worse, they end up as trash on the land and in rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Plastic bottles take many hundreds of years to disintegrate.

Water is good for you, so keep drinking it. But think about how often you use water bottles, and see if you can make a change.

And yes, you can make a difference. Remember this: Recycling one plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for six hours.

“Drinking Water: Bottled or from the Tap?” by Catherine Clarke Fox. Copyright © Catherine Clarke Fox/National Geographic Stock. From kids.nationalgeographic.com. Used by permission.

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Art for Ocean Animals

by Elise Jonas-Delson

What do you do when you see litter on the beach? You pick it up, of course. But artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi doesn't throw it away. She uses the trash to create giant sculptures of marine animals. The project is called Washed Ashore and its goal is to raise awareness about the effects of littering on ocean animals.

"The first thing you need to do is get people's attention," Pozzi told TFK [TIME For Kids]. "Giant animals tend to do this very well."

Pozzi started Washed Ashore when she noticed plastics on the beaches in Oregon, where she lives. Plastic doesn't break down and become absorbed by the environment. Instead, sunlight breaks it down into pieces about the size of plankton, which are tiny organisms that float in the sea. These tiny pieces of plastic enter the food chain. Sea animals eat them and end up dying. Pozzi always loved the ocean and the animals in it, and she wanted to do something to help both.

Sea Change

One of Angela's sculptures is a turtle. The turtle's head is an old garbage can lid. There is netting around it to show that turtles are getting caught in these nets.

Another sculpture, called Fish Bite Fish, is shaped like a fish and made out of little bits of plastic that contain tooth and claw marks from the fish and crabs that tried to devour the plastic. "We get so many pieces of plastic like this, I'm on my third Fish Bite Fish [sculpture]," says Pozzi.

The Sea Star figure is made of glass and plastic bottles, some of which are from the Beijing Olympics of 2008. The bottles started landing on the beaches in Oregon in 2010, and they still are arriving. The Sea Star acts as a musical instrument. You put water in the bottles and hit them to make music.

A Helping Hand

Pozzi doesn't collect all the trash by herself. When people spot litter on beaches, they drop it off at Artula Institute for Arts and Environmental Education, in Bandon, Oregon. Then Angela and her volunteers begin the process of turning the waste into art. Everything used for the sculptures is found on the beach, except for the framework and the materials used to connect the litter together.

Who does Pozzi believe can save marine animals? "Kids have a lot of power," she told TFK. "They are the ones that can make things happen. I really believe it."

TIME For Kids caught up with the Washed Ashore tour in Sausalito, California. The exhibit is currently in Chula Vista, California, from December 8 until July of next year.

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READ THIS WRITING PROMPT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR WRITING.

Littering and Pollution

After reading “Drinking Water: Bottled or from the Tap?” and “Art for Ocean Animals,” write an essay in which you compare and contrast the authors’ views on littering and pollution. Include information from both texts to write about the subject knowledgeably. Use details from both passages to help you write your essay. Also, remember to use correct grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing your essay.

You may use the space below for prewriting. However, only the lined pages of your answer document will be scored. You will have a time limit of 60 minutes.

This writing prompt must be returned with all test material.