



Commuting Proper Trash Disposal

Goal: To get students to sort their trash properly.

Why: A lot of potentially recyclable materials are being thrown into the trash and a lot of trash is also being thrown into recycling bins.

Education:

Throwing recyclables into the trash can is bad because...

- This material can be reused and made into other products, so it creates excess waste
- Without recycling, there is a higher demand for raw materials
- Overconsumption of resources like wood, fossil fuels (which are used to make plastic), etc.
- Recycling helps alleviate some of the burden

Throwing waste into the recycling bin is bad because...

- Messes with their efficiency - the process of sorting recyclables and waste goes by very quickly, so they can end up missing pieces of garbage
- Causes problems later on since there might have been contamination from the garbage (Ex. materials with food leftovers on them can contaminate an entire shipment of potentially recyclable material, making it unusable)
- All of the efforts that other people have put into recycling is wasted if just one piece of contaminated garbage makes it past the sorting
- Not only does this cost the environment, it also costs your local recycling program money
- Recycling is an expensive process, so if contamination occurs, they are basically paying twice as much just to send the now unusable materials to landfills

Sorting waste is important.

Project:

Put up posters, make announcements, use social media, etc. to bring attention to this problem. The sorting of trash is usually overlooked because nobody really knows that much about it. Educate the school.

Print out some "flyers" like these (these recycling guidelines will vary from region to region):



Post them above the garbage and recycling bins so that the students know what can be recycled and what can't be recycled.

If applicable to your school, you can even add specifics labels for

- Plastic
- Paper
- Cans
- Compost