



Heal the Bay

SHARPEN YOUR PENCILS: In-Class Exercise

Write a short Letter to Editor advocating to reduce impact of single-use plastics on our shorelines

PROBLEM

- We are addicted to convenience and single-use plastics
- Plastic food items are used for minutes, but last eons in environment
- Plastic pollution is harming our seas and creating blight in our neighborhoods
- NOAA studies show by 2050 that there may be more plastic than fish in the sea by mass
- Marine animals ingest plastic or get entangled in it
- Plastic trash is unsightly – harming our \$50 billion coastal economy in SoCal
- Beverage related trash is nearly 40% of debris found at Heal the Bay cleanups
- Most of the plastic trash we see is single-use – water bottles, plastic bags, straws, etc

SOLUTIONS

- Polystyrene bans – city councils can say no more Styrofoam cups or food containers in town
- Skip the straw or plastic water bottle – consumers can choose to not use single use plastics
- Consumers can encourage businesses to adopt more earth-friendly practices

ACTION

- Urge your city council to pass a polystyrene ban, as Culver City just did
- Pledge to reduce your use of single-use plastics and challenge your friends to do same.
- Urge restaurant to make straws on request only, like a glass of water during drought

Hypothetical Timing

- Writing a letter a few days before Earth Day
- Writing a letter a few days before city council votes on polystyrene ban
- Writing a letter before a major holiday – Halloween, Valentine's Day, etc.