

1<sup>st</sup> Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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I think that everyone should recycle. Too much of our land is being used for landfills. A lot of the time when I'm looking out my window across the street, I see litter. I think littering is wrong. When you don't recycle things like pop cans, water bottles, and other plastic items, you practically are littering. When items like that aren't recycled, they get thrown in a landfill. They stay there for many, many years. They have no use. When you do recycle those things get turned into new and better things.

When you buy recycled things, you are "closing the loop". Which I think that is just as important as recycling. Instead of throwing trash in the landfill, and letting it rot and be horrible to the environment you will have helped the environment. Once you buy it again and don't need it anymore, you can recycle it again! So, start "closing the loop"!

Conservation is my favorite. Too many people these days leave the lights on when they are not in the room. When people do that, they are burning too much energy! They are also risking animal's lives! So, when you leave a room and you know you are going to be gone for five or more minutes, please turn off the lights. We can also conserve by turning off water. Please follow these rules and the world will be a better and cleaner place!

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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“What does ‘closing the loop’ towards recycling and conservation mean to you?” I think closing the loop towards recycling and conservation means, putting materials through a complete cycle.

Start by taking materials, using them and reusing them to make something new. An example is to take a pizza box, something plastic or glass made of recycled material to the recycling center, and it may be made into a pizza box again.

Closing the loop also means, making a safer environment for our animals. Trash that is thrown in places where animals can get to it may hurt them. Like, when the penguin gets the pop can rings stuck around his neck in the movie “Happy Feet”. We can protect our animals by putting our trash in recycle bins and out of our animal’s habitats.

Closing the loop means, our landfills would go down. They will not fill the world with trash if we recycle. Thousands of trees would be saved. Every Sunday newspapers use 500,000 trees that need to be cut down. Recycling helps air and water pollution.

There are many benefits to recycling, if everyone does their part to close the loop on recycling and conservation we could make the world a better place for everyone.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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Closing the loop to recycling and conservation means saving the earth! We need to save our water, electricity, good air and more. We need all of these things to survive! If we save all of these things we can still have a good planet for many years to come. If we don't save now, we'll have nothing! One way to save is to recycle. So we need to save things and recycle!

If we recycle we can conserve trees and have fresh air. If we stop throwing away everything, we can have a better place to live. If we stopped using cars and trucks and walked we could save good air. Eventually we'll have no place to put the trash. If we aren't in a room we should turn out the lights so we can have more power. So these are my reasons why you should recycle!

If we all recycle we can save mountains of trash. If we don't recycle we will kill this great planet. If we recycle cans and paper we can save more aluminum and trees. Recycling helps us conserve more. So, we need to recycle to close the loop! We sure don't want to lose the planet we call home!

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Division I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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Do you reuse things? If you do you are on your way to the important job of recycling and conserving energy for our planet. Recycling is reusing things over again. You can recycle things like paper, plastic and glass. Conservation is like recycling. Conservation means to conserve or save. You can conserve water by shutting off your faucet when you brush your teeth. Recycling and conservations are both similar in that they are both good for the environment by saving energy.

One of the most important things about recycling and conservation is that they save energy. They both make our natural resources last longer. By recycling or reusing paper, we save our trees. We also save water by turning off our faucets instead of letting them run. By making our natural resources last longer, recycling and conservation also save us money. They are also important by preventing more trash in landfills which creates pollution that is very bad for our planet. By saving all of this energy, we are making our earth last longer. Recycling uses less transportation which is better for our air, because by recycling, there is less trash for garbage trucks to pick up and take to landfills.

We should all recycle and conserve to save our planet. We need to do this because we don't want children living in landfills when they grow up. Conservation and recycling are not just important to save money, but to save lives.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Division I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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Did you know that soon we will run out of some of our very important natural resources? Bad, right? Here's how to help. Recycle and conserve. They go together because they both help save money, energy and natural resources. Both help to save the environment. This is what "closing the loop" towards recycling and conserving means to me, if we all work together on recycling and conserving we can help save good things like energy, money and natural resources.

Every day lots of pollution is going into the ground, air and water. If we reuse stuff like bottles and cans we will make less pollution from those factories. Instead of using lots of plastic bags at the grocery store use a fabric bag that you can use again. After you drink a plastic bottle wash it out and use it again. And even something simpler like turning the water off while brushing your teeth or turn off the TV and lights when you leave the room. Stuff like that can make a big difference. Would you rather like to let more pollution go in the air, ground and water or do something easy like turn off your TV or lights when you aren't using them?

Do you want your families to live in piles of garbage instead of getting a house? Just think the house you live in soon could be a part of a big pile of trash. When you recycle you are using less things and less trash goes to the landfill. Remember, recycling and conservation go together because they both help save the environment. Recycle and conserve or let more pollution go into the earth. It's your choice.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Division I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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Do you know what recycling and conservation are? Do you know what the effects could be if you choose not to conserve and recycle. If you don't know the answers to these questions you should take the time to learn about conservation and recycling, it could make a big difference in the world we leave behind for the next generation.

First, let's talk about conservation. Conservation is careful preservation and protection of something, such as management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction or neglect. Examples of conservation would be not letting your water hose run when you aren't using it, that is conserving water. Not letting your car or truck run when you aren't using it conserves gas and oil. Saving oil is a major issue because oil isn't an unlimited supply. If we waste too much oil, we could run out. Then we would have no way to drive cars or trucks.

The second part of "closing the loop" is recycling. Recycling is the process of reusing something either in its original form or something different. Aluminum can be recycled to make other aluminum items, such as pop cans. Plastic is another item often reused to make other plastic items. Sometimes things are recycled into materials that are totally different, such as grinding up old tires to add to asphalt for roadways or to make patio tiles. If we didn't recycle these items they would end up in our landfills and eventually the landfills would be full and they would need to expand and take up more valuable land.

So, as you can see, it is very important that we all do our part to "close the loop" and recycle and conserve as much as we can.

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Grade 7

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Where does all of our trash go? What will happen to our planet years from now? To me going green is extremely important if we ever want to save our environment. The environment can't heal itself, we need to take action! To take action we MUST reduce, reuse and recycle. Throwing away paper and plastic bottles wastes landfill space that should be used for items we cannot reuse or recycle! Our trash goes into landfills that will trash our earth! If we don't STOP doing this to our wonderful planet earth where will our grandkids be? Will they be allowed to attend school like we are? Will we have enough trees for their paper? Are we going to be the cause of their losses of education and even air? We all know trees give us oxygen and we need oxygen to breath. So, are we going to be the ones that kill our future human race? It's not just humans either; we have already killed off many animal species. The pollution in the air is supposedly causing global warming which is killing the penguins and polar bears. At my house, we recycle everything we can. When my mom needs something recycled she says to my brothers, "save the earth!" We have energy efficient light bulbs, too! We also buy the water bottles that are reusable or the plastic ones that use less plastic. Then we recycle those too! These steps are not that hard, we should just take simple things out of our day and replace them with a healthier kind! LOVE OUR EARTH!

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Grade 7

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What “closing the loop” means to me is to recycle and reuse. If everyone were to recycle their used soda cans we would be saving a lot of aluminum. And if the schools were to recycle the paper they need to get rid of instead of throwing it away many of the trees would still be living. And, if everyone doesn’t start recycling, the trees are going to get cut down and we won’t have any oxygen to breathe. If everyone doesn’t help the environment there’s not going to be a nice one for people to enjoy. The future is in the hands of us people to treat the world right and recycle their plastic water bottles or throw their papers in the recycling. It’s not hard to make today a better day for our planet. I recycle because I want my kids to have a good planet to live on when I get older. I am asking one thing and that is for people to treat our planet with respect because we’re the ones living on it. Even though our planet has many problems I think recycling is the biggest. When you throw that piece of paper on the ground do you think what it’s doing to our planet? Many people don’t and that’s why our planet is going to be like a big trash can. So, I ask you to think about what you should do with that plastic water bottle or the piece of scrap paper you don’t need. Recycle it to make today a better day for tomorrow.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Grade 7

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To me, going green is about saving the environment while also saving ourselves. Recycling is the least we can do. The trees and plants give us the air we breathe, the food we eat, and even the medicine we need. Going green means recycling and saving those harmless plants. I feel as though we are not doing enough. I take part in the Disney Channel Friends For Change Foundation. If we can save water, we can save the plants we eat because we need to water it. The more water we save, the more food we have.

Recycling paper and waste is something everyone around the world needs to do. If we reach a helping hand to the environment we are reaching out and helping our own kind. If we don't act sooner we will perish just like nutrients we need to live a strong and healthy life. I say act fast.

“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.  
Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732

Thomas is a smart man. He is saying the exact same idea I am. If we get rid of our earthly supply because we are greedy we will no longer have what we need.  
“For 200 years we've been conquering Nature. Now we're beating it to death.”  
Tom McMillan, quoted in Francesca Lyman, *The Greenhouse Trap*, 1990

Tom is right. We use our resources too much and too fast. Both these quotes explain how I feel about going green. It's never too late to help. Give a hand. Go to [www.disneychannel.com](http://www.disneychannel.com) to help  
THANKS!