

**WRITING: LESSON 98***Race Against the Clock – Raffle Ticket Activity*

The great thing about this lesson is the students think this is a game, but they are actually writing a timed assessment. Think of this as assessment practice but FUN!

*The following passages will be used in this lesson:*

**Recycling**  
**Green Schools Alliance**

Prompt:

***Write an expository essay about why recycling is important  
and how kids can start recycling in their own lives.***

1. Tell students today they will be playing “Race Against the Clock” with raffle tickets.
2. Write the prompt on the board.
3. Hand out planning sheets and lined paper.
4. Tell students they will be given:
  - 20-30 minutes – reading
  - 15 minutes – planning
  - 10 minutes – introduction paragraph
  - 15-20 minutes – T1/R1, T2/R2, T3/R3
  - 10 minutes – conclusion paragraph
5. They will get a raffle ticket if they finish before time is up AND if it is written correctly.
6. Review the prompt and tell students they will have 20-30 minutes to read the passages.
7. Once they are done reading the passages, tell them to put their pencils up in the air. Tell them they now have 15 minutes to plan. Say GO! Time students for 15 minutes. As they are working, walk around the room to check their planning. After 15 minutes, anyone who is finished and planned correctly receives a raffle ticket. (Continue to do this for each paragraph.)
8. Set a timer for 10-15 minutes. Tell them to write the introduction paragraph. Anyone who finishes in 10 minutes, gets a raffle ticket.
9. Time R1: 15-20 minutes; anyone who finishes and writes it correctly gets a ticket.
10. Time R2: 15-20 minutes; anyone who finishes and writes it correctly gets a ticket.
11. Time R3: 15-20 minutes; anyone who finishes and writes it correctly gets a ticket.
12. Set a timer for 10 minutes. Tell them to write a conclusion. Anyone who finishes and writes it correctly in 10 minutes gets a raffle ticket.
12. Last 15 minutes of class, give out raffle prizes.







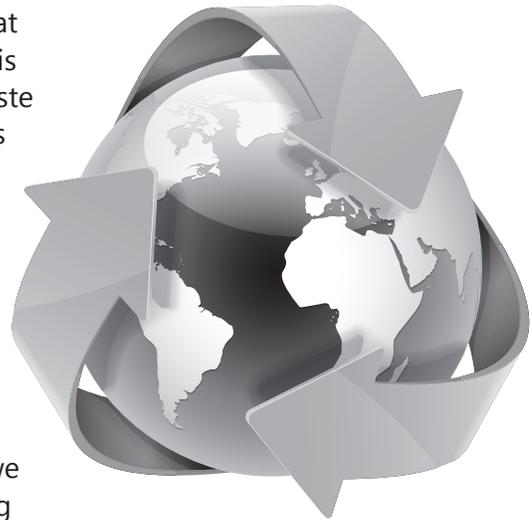




(Source 1)

## Recycling

**1** The idea of recycling has become something that is talked about often these days. The world population is growing quickly and adding a significant amount of waste to the planet yearly. We are also using natural resources quickly, which is adding to the problem. In New York City alone, people are producing enough trash in one day to fill the Empire State Building. So the question is, what can we do about it?



### What is Recycling?

**2** Before we understand how recycling can help, we first should know what it is. Basically, recycling is turning used materials into something new. Recyclable containers get sent to a recycling facility. In this facility, the products are turned back into their raw form which can then be used to make a new product. Making an effort to recycle can significantly reduce additional waste that is being added to our planet.

### Why is Recycling Important?

**3** Being conscious of the Earth is important to our well-being as well as the planet's. There are many advantages to creating a recycling routine. First, recycling your waste helps you to be more responsible for how you dispose of it. Research shows that people who are more conscious of what they dispose of are becoming more mindful buyers. They will instinctively cut down on buying unwanted items. People who recycle become more in tune and aware of their purchases. They think of how to dispose of packaging before they even buy it. This ends up helping people save a considerable amount of money while also saving the planet. Also, being aware of the waste you produce and putting forth the effort to cut down will help reduce the damage that is being caused to our global environment. Every little bit can help make our planet a better place to live in.



## **How Can I Reduce the Amount of Trash I Create?**

**4** As citizens, we can all help reduce our trash. We can first start by using materials that have already been recycled or can be recycled. By doing this, you reduce the amount of waste that goes to the landfills. You can also encourage your parents to take their reusable bags to the grocery store. This cuts down on the amount of plastic you use. Also, if you forget your reusable bags, you can always ask for paper bags instead of plastic. You can also encourage your parents to request that their monthly bills be sent to them electronically instead of in the mail. Going paperless helps save trees. Did you know that for every ton (2,000 pounds) of paper recycled, you can save 17 trees? That's a big deal. A few other ways to reduce the amount of trash we create is by reusing birthday and holiday bags, by avoiding disposable items like styrofoam cups, and buying products in cardboard or paper packaging instead of styrofoam. Following these tips can help you become a recycling hero.

*"Recycling" written for educational purposes.*



(Source 2)

## Green School's Alliance



**5** Many times as children, we are told to do so many things, but we don't know how to do them. This was the case with recycling. My teacher and principal talked about it all the time, but nothing ever really happened. My parents and I recycle at home, and I thought it would be a great idea to do the same at school. I went home one weekend and asked my mom to help me do some research. We found an organization called the Green School's Alliance that helps schools start their group.



**6** The following Monday, I went to school and spoke to my teacher about what I had found. She thought it was a great idea and together we got started. She spoke to the school principal and got permission to start an after-school club. We made posters about recycling and put them up around the school. Next, we went on the morning announcements and started giving tips on how to “go green.” Every classroom nominated a Green Ambassador. That person would be responsible for turning off the lights in the room when the class walked out. They would also turn off computer monitors to help save electricity.

**7** Our club also made a few changes around the school. We made signs for the cafeteria where children could throw away recyclable trash in a bin before dumping their food in the big trash compactor. We also set up special recycling bins around the school for paper only. The first few weeks, those bins were filled up daily. Teachers always have a lot of paper to throw away – why not recycle it?

**8** I always thought that recycling was a good idea, but I never thought I could make a big difference. After doing some research and involving my school, I realized we could do anything we put our minds to. If you are passionate about saving our planet, you should think about starting a recycling program at your school.

*“Green School’s Alliance” written for educational purposes.*