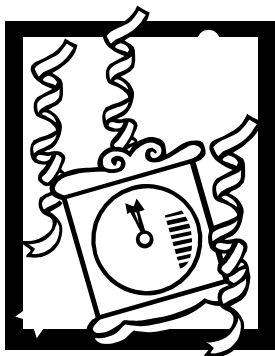


“ONE MAN’S TRASH”

Classroom Guide



City of Laredo Solid Waste Services Dept.
6912 Highway 359 • P.O. Box 1965 • Laredo, Texas 78044-1965
(956) 796-1098 or (956) 795-2510 • sgarza2@ci.laredo.tx.us
www.LaredoSolidWaste.com



Winter 2012

Happy New Year!

In this Classroom Guide, we give you ideas so that you can incorporate the newsletter into your classroom instruction, helping meet your educational goals and teach your standards and helping us share this important information about our community.

Our winter newsletter focuses on ways that we can save money and resources through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

If you have suggestions or comments for improving the newsletter or this Classroom Guide, please call or write us.

Your Environment. Your Choice.

Your students make choices every day that affect the environment. The purpose of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s **Your Environment. Your Choice.** campaign is to provide teens with the information they need to answer these questions. They’ll be able to make environmentally sound choices about the products and natural resources they use, the waste they create, and the environment in which they live.

At the website, your students will find “The Eco Student Blog,” tips, games, resources, and even career ideas.

Encourage them to visit: www.epa.gov/osw/education/teens.

Gear up for National Green Week!

Now is the time to prepare for National Green Week 2012! Choose your activities, curriculum, and greening initiatives today!

National Green Week empowers students to be leaders of their own sustainability campaigns. This year, the campaign kicks off February 6–10, but you can choose any week from Feb. 6–April 22 (Earth Day) to participate.

Participate for the whole week, a day, or just one lesson or activity. Schools and groups are encouraged to take this opportunity to spend time with students discussing environmental issues and specifically what they can do to make a difference.

On Earth Day 2012, the Green Education Foundation will announce the impact of the combined efforts on behalf of all of the schools and green keepers. Visit www.greeneducationfoundation.org to learn how you can be part of this exciting, nationwide event!



Consider the Source



No matter how or where your students find information—the Internet, books, or periodicals—they need to evaluate the source. Encourage them to ask these questions about source materials:

- Who wrote this material?
- Is the person or organization that produced this material an authority on the topic? Can the identity of the author (individual or organization) be independently verified? (For instance, does the organization have a physical address and phone number?)
- Who published this material?
- Who is the intended audience of the material? Could the material be useful to others outside of this audience?
- Who might benefit from the message contained in this material?
- What ideas, values, and points of view are conveyed by the information?
- What is left out of the material that might be important?
- Is this material current?
- Is it accurate?
- Can facts and assertions be verified by another source?
- What is the tone of the material? (serious, academic, ironic, satirical, informative, etc.)
- Do the images and audio support the text and reflect the content?

To see more evaluation criteria, visit these websites with your students: www.namele.net and www.medialit.org.

Media Literacy: A Brief Definition

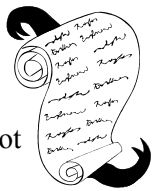

Within North America, media literacy is seen to consist of a series of communication competencies, including the ability to ACCESS, ANALYZE, EVALUATE, and COMMUNICATE information in a variety of forms, including print and non-print messages.

Media literacy empowers people to be both critical thinkers and creative producers of an increasingly wide range of messages using image, language, and sound.

It is the skillful application of literacy skills to media and technology messages.

Source: National Association for Media Literacy Education

Journal Writing Prompts

- When did you last make a “wish list” (or maybe a “gift list”)? What items did you include? Did you need them? How would (or did) you feel about the items after you got (or didn’t get) them? 
- Reread Marian Wright Edelman’s quote (“Quotes Requoted”). Name one small change that you could make. Is this a change that could “add up to big differences”? If so, how?
- In the song “Waiting on the World to Change” by John Mayer, the final chorus says: “One day our generation / Is gonna rule the population / So we keep on waiting / Waiting on the world to change.” What change are you waiting for? This might be a change in your life, a change in your family, a change in our community, or even a change in our world. When you think about this change, do you feel hopeful? If so, why? If not, why not?
- What if your family agreed to a “no electronics” rule at family meals? That would mean no cell phones, electronic games, tablets or laptops, MP3 players or iPods, and TV. How would you feel about going electronics-free for an hour or so in the evening? How do you think other family members would respond? Has your family ever tried this? What happened? 
- Before reading “Fleece Season,” did you know that fleece fabric can be, and often is, made from recycled plastic bottles? Name three other products that can be made from a recycled material. What recycled material is used to make each product?