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English 12: College Now

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Water Pollution:

Humans are Destroying the Environment

1. Introduction
   1. Hook Statement: Earth has approximately 1.4 billion cubic kilometers of water, in percentages that means the earth is 97 percent water, and only three percent of that is considered fresh water.
   2. Background: Humans have only been able to explore about five percent of the ocean, which means there is much more left that we have yet to see. Although five percent may not seem like a lot, it is when we are only able to access three percent of it that we are already damaging.
   3. Thesis: As people continue to grow and advance in the world, they will also be destroying the planet and all the living organisms involved including themselves as water is the main source of life.
   4. Blueprint: If people do not begin recycling, using proper pipes, and disposing waste from factories, raw sewage, and chemicals properly, it will cause many health issues, death of aquatic life, and reduce the percent of freshwater available to drink.
2. Body
   1. Argument: There are many organizations and Acts passed that have been helping preserve whatever clean water is left and to help bring life back to lakes that have been considered “dead.”Certain organizations like the Environmental   
      Protection Agency have been created to not only protect the most import natural resource on the planet but to also bring awareness to what is happening to our water and encourage local conservation.
      1. According the Dale Buck there has been major changes after the Clean water Act was passed. It states “ Rivers that once caught fire are now free of large amounts of flammable pollutants.” (1)
      2. He continues to say “ Almost all drinking water meets the minimal criteria for health safety, and raw sewage and industrial waste from the municipal and industrial sources are now being monitored and controlled”(Buck 1)
         1. Although people may believe that our water is safe and clean, it is not true. There are many contributions as to why our water is polluted and contaminated and it will eventually hurt us.
   2. Health Issues: here are many negative impacts that come from polluting our water and another one is the major health issues humans and other organisms encounter. Aquatic life will be the ones mostly affected by this but humans eat sea animals all the time and if they ingest a sick animal it will eventually get them sick as well
      1. According to WorldWildLife.org the “..chemicals that persist in the environment and accumulate in the bodies of wildlife and people, endocrine disruptors that can interfere with hormones, and chemicals that cause cancer or damage DNA.”
         1. This is huge to see that our many source of life is becoming dangerous to our health and could possibly cause cancer and other harmful effects.
      2. The article “Los Angeles County beaches grew dirtier in 2003” describes the many health issues that people have been facing by going to there local beaches
         1. “Officials issues nearly 1,500 daily health warnings for local beaches..”(Cavanaugh 1)
         2. The article continues to state “High bacteria levels prompted the vast majority of health warnings and can increase the risk of colds, fevers, sore throats and diarrhea, according to the NRDC report” (Cavanaugh 2)
      3. These health issues are dangerous and are becoming a huge concern for people at all ages. Communities should begin to take care of there local beaches to ensure that families will be safe from infections and disease.
   3. Lead contamination: People had thought that lead pipes would be a huge achievement by allowing access to water in public places and homes, has now become a hazardous cheap invention. Over time the pipes begin to erode into the water that people drink every day at school and at home which was causing major health issues in children.
      1. In the 1980’s, before the Safe Drinking Water Act had banned lead plumbing, schools would use lead pipes to fed water to fountains throughout the school. Schools in over 13 states began facing issues with lead in their water.
         1. According to Michael Wines, one of the highest lead discoveries was in Jersey City. Their “.. taps and fountains went unrest until E.P.A. took samples in 2006, again part of the federal outreach program, and turned up lead concentrations up to 60 times the federal threshold at eight schools”(3)
      2. Even after the mayor of Jersey City claimed to have resolved the issue, the E.P.A. had found the issue had continue to get worse.
         1. It states “ The district tested all its fountains and taps in mid-2008 and found that water in 27 more schools was as much as 80 times higher than the E.P.A.’s lead threshold” (Wines 3)
      3. One of the most well known state that faces lead contamination in their water is Flint, Michigan. It has been this way since “... the city switched to using the Flint River as its water source from April 2014 to October 2015.”(Maher 2)
         1. According to Kris Maher “During that time, state regulators failed to require the use of a chemical to prevent corrosion and lead leached into drinking water from ating lead services lines running to homes.(Maher 2)
      4. If they do not see that our inventions are harmful to the environment and people then they will continue to kill or hurt many innocent lives. They must begin changing all the pipes that were made with lead so that way people do not have to fear lead contamination in their water.
   4. Water ruined by Industrial Chemical Waste: Since the Industrial revolution, humans have continued to disposed waste improperly due to the fact it is cheaper and easier.
      1. Place that we use as our main waterways such as Lake erie and the great lakes have been found contaminated.
         1. “More than 92 billion litres of raw sewage is dumped into the great lakes annually from canadian and U.S. sources” (Freeman 1)
         2. “More than 600 million Kilograms of industrial pollution, including methyl mercury, PCB’s, dioxins, furans and host of other chemicals, are released each year into the air, water and a host of other chemicals, are released each year into air, water and land in the Great Lakes basin.”(Freeman 1)
      2. Since these lakes are surrounded by cities they are more prone to contamination and infection.
         1. According the Freeman,” Twenty cities around the great lakes still dump raw sewage directly into the lakes, while agricultural run-off and industrial emissions continue to rise.”(2)
      3. One of the most widely known toxic chemicals used is called heavy metals, which are different types of organic substances that can be toxic even in low concentrations. Heavy metals are substances that are commonly used in factories or industries.
         1. “They are not health threats in small amounts, but they become dangerous when they collect in the water, the earth, and the atmosphere, and then enter our bodies in greater-than-normal amounts through breathing, eating, and drinking” (Dolan 43)
   5. Polluting the Ocean: Many thing such as plastic, trash or anything non organic can harm the ocean and the organisms involved. Other things such as raw sewage enter the ocean without pacing through power plants can cause life threatening viruses.
      1. Untreated or Raw Sewage are can cause “ … viruses that cause dysentery(an inflammation of the intestines), hepatitis (an inflammation of the liver), and the dreaded muscle crippler, poliomyelitis”( Dolan 39).
      2. Another leading killer is plastic and research has found that “plastic wastes have killed as many as 2 million seabirds and 100,000 fish and other creatures each year.” (Dolan 73)
      3. A study done in “..1975 by the National Academy of Sciences found that 14 billion pounds of garbage, much of its plastic in nature, was being dumped into the seas every year..”( Dolan 74)
3. Conclusion
   1. There are many ways that we can help prevent pollution and contamination and make a huge impact on the environment. If we were to critique how we dispose of our waste and make better decisions in our daily lives it can make the biggest difference. As clean water continues to decrease it will bring chaos to everyone and everything.