**Please answer one of the following questions.**

1. Which present environmental issue is of most concern **to you** and why? Please be specific, citing relevant sources in the course of your narrative.

**Maximum word limit 300.**

When I visited the island Race Rocks for the first time, I saw a sea lion lying on the rocks. His neck was raw and bleeding, almost a pile of bloody flesh. I felt nauseous. He started to bark as we approached. He tried to raise his head up high, but failed.

“He was trapped by a plastic band and has been here for a while,” teacher told us.

“Could we save him?”

“No. He’s badly injured and will not last long.”

“So he will die.”

“Yes. Probably starve to death, which takes months.”

Everyone got silent. We could do nothing but accept his imminent death.

Or maybe I could do something.

I volunteered to live on Race Rocks for a week to monitor the sea lions. Life there was hard with limited fresh water and electricity. I spent almost the whole week going up and down the lighthouse to do census on sea lion population. I closely tracked and observed the behavior of several entangled sea lions on the island.

Later in marine science class, I got to know more about this tragedy. It is not a rare case. In recent years, over 500 entangled sea lions were observed, but much more were unknown.

I tried even harder. As a diver, despite the freezing temperature of winter seawater, I monitor the population of marine animals and help clean trashes in the ocean. I pick up trashes along the beach during cross-country running. Even the whole campus are encouraged to cut the loop while throwing the trash — in case a sea lion slides in and get trapped.

The death of that sea lion on the rocks was inevitable, and our power is limited. But I firmly believe what matters is our care about our neighboring sea lions and our actions to improve the situation for more sea lions in the world.