

Something that I have always felt strongly about, was the importance of recycling. We have limited resources on this planet, and it is important to preserve what we can for future generations. When we throw things away it ends up in landfills unable to be used again, covering beautiful parts of the Earth. It is so simple to separate your cardboard and cans into a different bin. However some states make it harder than others to recycle and many believe it is not worth the effort. I spoke to my roommate Claire about the subject and she expressed her beliefs that the time it took to break everything down and separate it was too much of a hassle. She argues that Utah often just throws away recycling and that BYU makes it particularly hard by requiring you to pre separate items according to category. I mentioned that the benefits outweighed the time it took to recycle, and that even though some may be thrown away, some will be reused. It's important to do what we can because there is so little we can do. Unfortunately my roommate still disagreed with my arguments. However as we talked it through more and more we were able to find more common ground. We were also very respectful about our differing opinions and did not seek to hurt each other in the points we made. I feel so strongly about this issue because I love nature and care so much about doing our part to give back to the environment. My roommate does not care as much, so her opinions are not the same as mine. It was helpful to talk through the issue because although neither of us changed our mind, we are likely to be more compassionate to the other side when talking about it in the future. It is also possible that as time goes on, one of us may change our mind as we recognize that the other's argument was more correct than we realized at the time. I think of this similarly to missionary work when people mention planting a seed in someone's heart. Although they may not be converted the same day you talk to them, they will be more susceptible to it in the future. The important part of this

conversation was that I learned what is important to the other side like time and the end result of recycling. These will be good things to think about as I write my final opinion editorial.