

## **Your iPhone is killing the planet**

### Introduction

#### Hook (En Media Res):

For longer than I've understood electronics, for longer than I've been alive, the worst kept secret of the electronics industry is electronic waste; the grungy, sharp-edged side to the world's future. Be that through much of its seemingly easily preventable nature or the toxic and noxious, rancid chemicals and byproducts, electronic waste leaves a taste almost as sour in my mouth as the environment that it irreparably harms through its accumulation. The screaming, grinding cries of processing and recycling machines, as I walk through a tour at eco-cycle, used to break it down proves the effort being put in towards mitigation of the problem, but there is no easy solution to this problem in sight, even if everything around me now is promising.

#### Background and Context:

E-waste refers to discarded electronic devices and components that are no longer useful. This waste poses a significant environmental and health risk due to the toxic and noxious chemicals and byproducts it contains.

#### Introduction to your argument:

Thesis Statement (your reasoning for why you believe there is a need for actionable change on your topic):

While technology marches forwards, despite the new convenience and ease it brings, in its dust are the rotting corpses of machines given up on too early, thrown in a landfill instead of repaired, decommissioned for the slightest flaw, and destroying the world because of it.

#### Note on your subtopics:

- You must plan on integrating the five sources used in your Noodle Tools outline
- You must include findings from your interview that you have (or will) conduct
- Interviews should be completed by the end of this weekend!

#### Subtopic #1- Our economy prioritizes planned obsolescence

Topic Sentence: In the economy we live under, for the past 99 years companies have understood that consumers will just purchase their product again when it breaks, incentivizing them to decrease product lifespans, and by proxy the numbers of their products in landfills.

Embedded Evidence: Planned obsolescence is a lasting and systemic issue of our economic system, an institution in industry that has been going on for longer than anyone reading this will be alive, as illustrated in the paper *Designed to break: planned obsolescence as corporate*

*environmental crime*, “Planned obsolescence entails the deliberate design of products to artificially limit their lifespan—either actual or perceived functionality—encouraging or requiring consumers to replace products prematurely (Sherif & Rice, 1986, p. 75). Light bulb producers originally used this strategy to increase their product turn-over and thus profitability, while New York real estate magnate Bernard London (1932, p. 2) went a step further by proposing a national policy of planned obsolescence to restore the US economy following the 1929 Wall Street crash. Robust products became economic liabilities in a Depression economy: (<https://adabit.org/designedtobreak.pdf> Lieselot Bisschop Yogi Hendlin Jelle Jaspers)

Analysis: While the Phoebus Cartel (the name the coalition of lightbulb manufacturers took) is an obvious, egregious example of this planned obsolescence for nearly a century, our economy incentivizes modern tech companies to use the same strategies on devices like iPhones, MacBook, printers, projectors and more to skyrocket their place in the economy and their stock price

Embedded Evidence:

Analysis:

Link for why this subtopic matters in context of your overarching argument:

Subtopic #2- Our political system makes that repair hard if not illegal

Topic Sentence:

Embedded Evidence: “the software[on a broken device] may come with digital locks (aka Digital Rights Management [DRM] or Technical Protection Measures [TPMs]) supposedly designed to prevent unauthorized copying. And breaking those locks, even to do something simple and otherwise legal like tinkering with or fixing your own devices, means breaking the law, thanks to Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act” (<https://www.eff.org/issues/right-to-repair>).

Analysis:

Embedded Evidence and analysis:

Link for why this subtopic matters in context of your overarching argument:

Subtopic #3- Corporations have no good argument against repair

Topic Sentence:

Embedded Evidence and analysis: In working on vetoing SB 4104, the digital fair repair act, a proposed New York law heralded by repair and environmental experts as a small step in the right direction of keeping E-waste out of a landfill, Apple has to engage in bald-faced lies to justify anti-repair practices, going as far as to say that “Self service repair of a battery is impossible for anyone but highly-trained technicians certified by Apple” (Foulkes 13), a lie that is instantly and easily disprovable by not only the market for batteries sold to individuals, but by just attempting a battery repair. In research for this, I replaced the battery in my 2015 iPhone 6s with relative ease in less than 10 minutes of work, a friend’s iPhone 13 battery with a bit more

trouble, but still relative ease in about 2 hours, and a family member's iPhone 8 battery in under 10 minutes

Embedded Evidence:

Analysis:

Link for why this subtopic matters in context of your overarching argument:

Actionable Change being advocated for

Explanation of change:

Embedded Evidence:

Analysis:

Application of how this change would occur:

Conclusion and summarization of main points

Works Cited