1. State your problem as clearly and precisely as you can. Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

Water pollution is a problem that not only affects our wild life, but also has great contributions to global warming, along with the production of acidic rain. The continuous pollution of rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water has lead to the destruction of many aquatic food chains (Miyazaki et all 158). Without these food chains, other essential food chains start to fail, bringing collapse to many populations. While humans are the last to experience these destructive events, we are the main cause of the problem. Apart from the destruction of aquatic ecosystems, water pollution contributes to the production of acidic rain when acid pollutants are dumped in bodies of water. These pollutants overtime evaporate and dissolve in water, and later precipitates as acidic rain (Schreurs 92).

1. What is your purpose, goal, and need for solving this problem? (Recognize problems as obstacles to reaching your goals, achieving your purpose, or satisfying your need.) Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

Solving the problem of water pollutions serves as a gateway for us to fix damaged food chains, collapsed aquatic environments, and re-grow forests destroyed by acidic rain (Law 540). By doing this, we will create a more balanced ecosystem where all animals can truly rely on each other, here we can start to foster new life, and save fading ones. Fixing this problem is by no means a walk in the park, due to the lack of awareness, aggressive lobbying, and the range of the damaged cause by this so far (Hunter et all 22). Many people, unaware of the severity of the problem of water pollution, brush off the issue when addressed. Since a majority of people are not directly affected by this problem, they fail to see the importance of addressing the problem. Next to the lack of awareness, the extensive lobbying of energy and industrial companies to remove water pollution laws has made the act of those trying to fix this problem very difficult.

1. Study the problem to determine the “kind” of problem you are dealing with. What kind of problem are you trying to solve? What do you have to do to solve it? Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

The type of problem I’m trying to solve is one of both arrogance, and awareness. The problem of water pollution is one focuses attention of those passionate, but defers those uninterested by the outcome. This problem also addresses the government’s ability to be strong armed by lobbyist to watch an essential part of human life be slowly destroyed by bug business. The problem being addressed is how to increase engagement and solutions to water pollution, and create more laws to protect our aquatic ecosystems. To solve this problem, I will need to get those unaware, aware, those aware, engaged, and those in power, willing and ready to protect our resources.

1. What from your problem do you have control over and what do you have no control over? Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

Although this problem is very extensive with many components, there are aspects which I, and any (wo)man can control. First thing anyone could do is become aware of where (s)he disposes of his/her trash. We could become wiser consumers and make purchases with minimal damage to the environment, buy products that decompose by themselves, and also control the amount of plastics purchased. While it does seem like we have some control over the problem, there are many parts of the problem where many people get no say, or can try to control. The first major contributors to the problem that cannot be controlled are the business and industries that pollute oceans and bodies of water without thought of the consequences (Kolstad 115). These business elites get to act like this due to the lack of regulation, and undermining of the law. The biggest parts of this problem, seems to be the only thing not in the hands of the everyday man.

1. What information do you need to solve the problem? Explain. How can you actively seek the information you need to solve the problem? Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

Due to the extensity of this problem, the information needed to approach this problem and develop a solution is glutinous. The first piece of information that could contribute to 60% of the problem is to find out the cause of water pollution, and the major players that contribute to it (Marion 81). Either these players are natural, such as other animals, or man made, like business, the identification of the source of the problem makes solving the problem much easier. Knowing what to prevent is easier, than guessing what to prevent, and being able to understand a problem makes the process of coming up with a solution for the given problem easier. To seek information that could be used to identify the problem, I would have to extensively survey in attempt to figure out the problem, and use the data acquired form surveys to actually pinpoint the problem

1. What theory or theories can you formulate concerning this problem? Carefully analyze and interpret your theories and draw reasonable inferences. Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

A theory, which I have formulated concerning this problem, pertains to the source of pollution, and efforts to find and fix it. The theory being that those naturally suspect as the polluters of bodies of waters, are generally those trying to fix it. What this theory encompasses is that those who are generally looked upon as the culprits of water pollutions are the ones actually trying to solve it, and the source of the problem is coming from else where. If this logic were followed, it would mean that since the correct source of the water pollution problem hasn’t been found yet, any efforts to fix it is futile since it’s not addressing the problem, but a periphery problem. The focus on a periphery problem wastes both time and resources cutting off branches on a tree, instead of the roots.

1. Determine your options for action. What can you do in the short term? In the long term? Recognize your limitations in terms of money, time, and power. Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

In the short term I can raise local, and statewide awareness about this problem, start small scaled clean up in neighborhoods affected by this problem. By raising local as well as state awareness over the topic, I could get many people to take part in the efforts to clean the bodies of water, which we so heavily depend on. Raising awareness not only generates public interest in the problem, but also helps the problem find its way to the door of our elected representatives, which could be the key to an increase in government regulation of the problem. In a longer scheme of things, to overcome some of the financial burden of actively cleaning bodies of water, I could start fundraisers, an application (game, or app) to engage the whole globe in this problem. By creating an application, I can now connect to all demographics, not just those passionate about the problem, but those who receive their news on less known mediums. This connection could lead to a more aware human population, where people around the globe are working daily to reduce the pollutants they could possibly dispose in bodies of water.

1. Evaluate your options, determining their advantages and disadvantages. Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

The advantages of raising awareness about the problem, like stated above, is the increase in public activity to control and try to reduce the amount of water pollution. While this seems like the best way to start, and get people involved, this could also be a way to turn people away from the problem, further increasing it. The disadvantage about trying to raise awareness is that eventually the message gets more preach-like, and seems much like propaganda, which could easily turn people away from the cause. Another disadvantage of trying to raise awareness is there are many people who are not directly affected by the destructive outcome of water pollution, whom will claim, “It [water pollution] doesn’t affect them directly so they have no need to care.” While these might seem as the biggest disadvantage of the options, it is not, the worst disadvantage is the fact that no matter how much awareness is raised, or how many laws are passed prohibiting something, the people who fail to see the error of their ways and continue to pollute the bodies of water will be the biggest disadvantages to any option.

1. Adopt a strategy. Follow through on it. This may involve direct action or a carefully thought-through wait-and-see approach. Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

The strategy, which I plan to adopt, is simple, yet encompasses all aspects of my options listed above. A basic summary of the strategy is through mobile and web applications, I plan to create a space where people can learn more about the affects of water pollution, set up clean ups within their own communities, play games that encourages actions that defer from pollution and get the people themselves to raise awareness themselves. While this strategy might seems very handoffs, it’s not, by doing this I give the people the resources they need to start making change. I give them a means to connect to those who have the same concerns, create a network of people who are passionate about the problem and willing to take action to fix it, and make process of change social. Through this medium / approach the people are able to be the agents of change, not a corporation, the act of cleaning and preventing water pollution becomes a community activity fueled by passionate and diverse people.

1. Evaluate and assess the implications of your action/strategy. Explain your analysis/answer in five (5) or more sentences.

By implementing this strategy, I’m able to reach a wider range of people all over the world, rather than just a community. This strategy also makes the act of fixing the problem less financial and more of a developmental task. Choosing the Internet as a medium to execute this solution, allows people of all cultures, ethnicities, and beliefs to take part in the effort, diversifying how they each choose to solve the problems in their communities.

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