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Short essay 2

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Though trash containers are modern middens, there is a significant difference between trash containers and middens. The difference is that modern buildings were built with section purposes. For instance, dining section and living section is separated in WSU campus. The purpose causes specific wasting pattern: food wastes are discarded near dining section, and toilet papers are discarded near living section. Since the pattern reduces diversity, trash cans are not a good subject of excavating. Instead, there is a subject that works the most similar as midden: trash dumps.

Trashes from all sections eventually go to trash dump, so it is possible to keep diversity by excavating trash dump. In this paper, trash dump of McEachern hall is the site of study. By studying the trash dump of McEachern, the discarding pattern of residents of McEachern could be observed. However, there was a difficulty in the excavating. Since trash dumps are huge, it is impossible to excavate trashes with hands. To solve this problem, the trash dump was checked regularly from when the trash dump was almost empty to when the trash dump was emptied. Though the method is reverse of excavation, it agrees with the law of superposition. In addition, trash cans and trash dumps are regularly emptied, so the method is the same as simulation of the past trash dumps’ construction.

At the bottom of trash dump, there are relatively small trashes: trashes such as pet bottle and disposable plates. Some small garbage bags are also found; the garbage bags are not as big as the garbage bags at the middle position. The proportion of bottom part is much smaller than the other parts, and the weight of components is lighter than other parts.

At the middle position of trash dump, there are bigger trashes. Boxes are found at this position; there are diverse boxes such as amazon package, pizza box, box filled with papers, etc. Middle size garbage bags also are located at this position; the size is smaller than the size of garbage bags at the top, but the number of bag is the biggest in every position. The proportion of middle part is the biggest, and the weight of components is heavier than bottom’s but lighter than top’s.

At the top of trash dump, there are big garbage bags. The garbage bags of this position are bigger than the other positions’, and the weight of bags is also heavier than the other positions’. The proportion of top part is bigger than the bottom but smaller than the middle. The weight of components is the heaviest.

With the observed facts, it is possible to assume the residents’ discarding pattern. At the initial stage, the residents didn’t discard their waste or didn’t have much trash; they discard only instant trashes. After some point, there was an event that the most residents needed to discard their garbage, so the largest proportion was made so quickly. For instance, students cleaned their room during a weekend. Since the most residents are students, wastes were not so valuable. In addition, the wastes were from individuals, so the size is not so big. After all, there was an event that the resident communities needed to discard garbage. Since the garbage bags of top part are too big for individuals, it is proper to assume that the garbage bags were from communities.