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**Nature and the Lifeforms**

Specific Purpose: To persuade my audience that protecting the environment is a necessity.  
Thesis: Our lives are endangered because of how we treat mother nature; so, we need to protect the environment if we want to survive.

1. **Attention**:

We human all have the chance to live because of nature. The cloth you are wearing is made from nature, the building we are in is made from nature. But with our current speed of exploiting the resources is killing the environment. Well, even though it is reasonable and necessary for us to utilize the resources around us. Doing it without knowing the limit and how to recreate those resources can bring a lot of trouble to us and our future. So, we need to protect the environment right now and more than ever. But, why do we need to protect the nature?

1. **Need**: (We need to protect the environment because…)
2. First of all: because it is the environment that gives us food, and resources.   
   According to peer.tamu.edu, 1 billion people in the world have no clean water, two billion people have inadequate sanitation and one and a half billion people breath air that is dangerously unhealthy. But more importantly, those numbers are concentrated highly on the area where the environment is severely damaged by multiple reasons such as industrialization. So, you can see that, without the environment, we can’t be healthy.
3. Secondly: because the environment keeps the overall temperature of Earth’s atmosphere balanced.   
   Right now, in the capital of my homeland, Saigon, the government are cutting down hundreds and thousands of trees because it is more profitable to them. And the result is that the temperature rises rapidly, from about 86 degree Fahrenheit to 105 degrees Fahrenheit. It is so hot there that you can even boil an egg outside. Imagine what if all the trees in the world are cut down, will we be able to survive the heat without getting our head fried?
4. Thirdly: Earth is our home.  
   From millions of years ago, human learned how to use caves as the shelter. Then we started to make houses from the materials surrounding us. And even the walls in this room are made from “nature.” So, if we destroy our environment, where will we live? Will you stand then outside, stare at the sun and enjoy it all day? No! But if you do, there is something wrong with you.
5. **Satisfaction**: But how do we protect the environment?

Well, there are a lot of ways to fix this problem, but let’s start with the simple stuff first.

1. The easiest way you can do is limiting the usage of plastic bags. Fun fact, according to abc.net, plastic bags can last from 20 to 1000 years if they are not properly recycled. And when they last, there will be a high chance that they prevent the plants from growing since they can wrap around the root. So, whenever you go shopping, instead of using plastic bags, you can use paper bags or eco-grade bags. But if you think it’s too hard to get a paper bag, then you can simply reuse the plastic bags after each use.
2. Secondly, you can try to plant a tree or even just a type of flower. One does not simply grow a plant and get nothing from it. A plant not only keeps the oxygen cycle running, but also can bring sweet smell for your home. So, why not? But if you are afraid that you don’t know how to plant, then start from growing something easy such as sunflowers. Small action, big impact!
3. Finally, if you want something more significant to do. You can donate or even join many organizations that help support the nature surrounding us. And right here in Oregon, we have two groups that advocate protecting the environment with the names Environment Oregon and the Associated Oregon Loggers. Maybe you think that your contribution won’t be enough, but here is the thing, there are about 7.5 billion people on this planet, and even if each of us only contributes 1 dollar, it will be 7.5 billion dollars in total. Each of us may be small, but together, we can make the difference.

**Counterargument**: On the other hand, people might say that we still have a lot of trees, and the weather is still too beautiful, why do we bother caring about the protecting the environment? Well, it is true that our nature is still fine, but according to ran.org, we lose about 7 billion trees each year. Moreover, every year, more and more lands are uninhabitable due to multiple reasons, ranging from polluted air to climate change, especially when the greenhouse effect is getting drastically stronger day by day. So maybe you and me will be fine, but our future generation won’t, not at all.

1. **Visualization**: (What if we don’t protect the environment?)

Now, imagine you are going on a trip in a forest; the birds are singing, the sky looks so fantastic in that bright blue color, and there is also the calm running sound of the water in the nearby river, too. That scene looks so beautiful, doesn’t it? Too bad, I now bring an ax and chop half of the forest down. Well, at least we still have the beautiful sky. Nope, I start to put some massive factories around the area; the gray smoke begins to fill the area, you can’t see the birds because they are all dead. But hey, we still have the river to enjoy, right? Not anymore, unfiltered deep black waste from the factories now swamps the river. Maybe you feel sorry for it, but those people standing behind those actions don’t care because they have the profit from doing that. This is happening to us right now. And if we don’t start to take action, we will need to colonize another planet in less than a hundred years if we want to survive as suggested by the famous theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. Can we do that? I don’t know.

1. **Action**: (Let’s take action!)

So, why not take action right now to prevent the tragedy? You can start by growing a small plant each month, putting the trash into the right bin or contact your governor for the information of your local pro-environment campaign. Or if you want something big, you can even conduct a campaign of your own and persuade other people to follow you! Maybe we start from something little, but many little things come together will become something great, something marvelous. But if you are afraid that your voice is insufficient for these large things, well, maybe you are right. I alone might not make the difference, you alone might not make the difference, but together, WE CAN DO IT. Our voice is stronger than any weapons. Let’s act now to show those who are trying to destroy the nature know that there is only one option to choose, it is either their health or their money. Let’s act now so that we can save our future. Let’s act now to protect the environment. Thank you.

**Citation**

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