

Trash in Developing Countries

Your committee will present first. Please read through the steps carefully.

Remember, your ultimate goal is to reduce waste.

Product: A PowerPoint Presentation

- Each committee will present their findings using PowerPoint and YouTube video(s). If you need more than one video to tell your stories, insert a new slide and add the video to the new slide.
- The PowerPoint slides have been prepared for you. You need to fill in the information using the *italic* directions on the slides. Everything in *italics* is to be replaced by your committee.
- You need to know the information on the slides. Use an index card so you face the Summit audience, not the screen, when you present.
- You will include bullet points on some of the slides; bullet points should be a few words about your topic. (Insert a new slide if you need more room).
- Each presentation will be no less than 5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes. The Trash in Developing Countries Committee will have more than one presentation, with a maximum of 10 minutes for each presentation.
- The different countries you will look at are Egypt, the Philippines, and Brazil. Committee Chairs must make sure each member has a country. You will present a separate PowerPoint presentation for each country.

1. Elect a Chairman of your committee. Your Chairman will be in charge of the group's presentation to the rest of the class. This will include delegating parts of the presentation.

Successful Chairing for a Successful Committee

Chairs must be good listeners, good communicators, and good organizers.

Successful Chairs:

- ✓ Successful group discussions require planning and participation by all:
 - The Chair asks questions and gets help from their committee.
- ✓ The Chair's job is to keep all committee members involved by making sure each member:
 - has a country/topic
 - has filled in all of his or her slides
 - listens to the other members' findings

- joins in on the final committee opinions and solutions (Remember, the 6th grade is focusing on how to reduce, or create less, trash)
- ✓ Praise members' good work in writing and verbally
- ✓ Maintain a sense of humor
- ✓ Communicate often. Few people respond to a general invitation; a personal request usually brings faster results.
- ✓ Check in with members until tasks are accomplished; then praise committee member(s) (privately and publicly) for a job well done.
- ✓ Document all your sources as required by your teacher.

2. Identify the problem—waste disposal in developing countries. A developing country is one working towards industrialization to replace an economy based on small agricultural families.

Your State Standard learning target is: How do biases interfere with critical thinking?

View all the videos and read all the readings. Many are not about trash, but are meant to help your committee understand some of the culture surrounding the geographic locations. **Why is it important to understand what others are thinking?**

Understanding the problem in other countries requires an understanding of their culture and the political climate in that country. You must understand community values before you can suggest community solutions.

Be aware that assumptions shape peoples thinking. In your research, examples of assumptions include: they think because they are poor they become a lower priority and will be ignored; poor people do not work hard; we do not need to care about people with a different religion.

How do biases (assumptions) interfere with critical thinking?

Background Information

- **Cairo, Egypt** “has one of the most efficient garbage recycling systems in the world, and that's due to the community of garbage collectors known as the Zebbaleen. They collect the trash every night and sort it by hand; recycling up to 80 percent of the waste they collect. They also use pigs to eat the organic waste they collect, but figures [recycling numbers] have decreased in the last year, when the government culled the pigs over the swine flu outbreak. Still, companies hired to pick up the trash recycle only a fraction of that. Al Jazeera's Stefanie Dekker has the story of a people doing an important job, with very little recognition.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr3ackX82Po>

- *Where the Zebbaleen live:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEO0cKGBpDQ>

The next two videos give an image of the two sides of Cairo. Unless they are trash collectors the two sides rarely interact. It's interesting that the people raised in the new part of Cairo study what the old Cairo is like in museums.

- *Cairo, a divided city:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaXcmaAzm1A&feature=endscreen>
- *Streets of Cairo:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxB1MI2RMjY&feature=related>

Cairo has a huge tourism industry (and the trash that goes with it). The great pyramids of Egypt and the Nile of Cleopatra fame are just outside of Cairo. In the last few years, tourists have wanted to see the Zebbaleen—the greatest recyclers on earth.

Egypt is a primarily Muslim country. Muslims and Jews do not eat pork. Unlike much of the rest of Egypt's population, the Zebbaleen people are Christians, eat pork and raise pigs on food scraps. They also live in slums. Christian groups around the developed world have made improving the lives of the Zebbaleen their mission. Their work includes providing schools, sanitary sewage, clean drinking water, etc., but poor living conditions still exist. To solve the slum problem, the dictator [recently removed] hired trash collectors for huge amounts of money. These trash collectors only recycled 20% of the waste, plus citizens were charged a fee. Small streets, common in Cairo, are not wide enough for trucks, and the citizens were required to haul their trash to central areas for pickup.

The politics in Egypt are a hot topic. This country was ruled for decades by a dictator, but through demonstrations and pressure, the dictator was removed from office. A new democratic government has been elected. This country has many big problems to solve, so trash is not at the top of their list.

➤ **Philippines**

The Smokey Mountain Garbage Dumpsite is located on the main island of the Philippines. The fires, which give the dump the name Smokey Mountain, are started to find hidden metals. The people living and working in the dumpsite (around 2,000 families with an estimated 12,000 children) search through the garbage in order to find items they can sell. All the people living at Smokey Mountain live in little shanties they built from materials they found in the dumpsite.

Families only earn about 50-200 pesos (1-4 US dollars) per day collecting garbage. If they don't collect garbage, they will have nothing to eat for that day; they usually get by on one, sometimes two, meals a day. Thus, many of the children are malnourished. Most of a family's money is spent on leftovers from trash bins behind restaurants. Scavenging for food to bring to and sell to families at the dump is a business in itself in the Philippines. Since families must pay for leftovers from restaurant trash bins, they look for food in the garbage dump that they can eat for free – this is one of the only ways they can save money and get ahead.

Education is not free in the Philippines; families must pay a fee for their children to go to school in addition to the cost of books, meals, school supplies, etc. The government does not recognize poor people as citizens. Many of them live in the dump because their houses in the cities were torn down. When the houses of the food scavengers are torn down, they move to the dump.

The Philippines has a deep history with unsettled politics, which has contributed to the extreme poverty at the Smokey Mountain Garbage Dump. The Philippines provide a good example of how different economic systems affect job and career options and the population's standard of living.

Foreign countries ruled the Philippines for centuries. The US took over rule of the Philippines after the Spanish –American War (1898). A year later, in 1899, the US and the Philippines started a bloody war led by an extremely unpopular US president. The US won and agreed to slowly turn the Philippines over to the Filipino people (1913).

The Philippines were bombed by the Japanese 10 days after Pearl Harbor (1941). Huge battles were fought, and the Japanese won control of the islands. Finally the islands were returned to US rule at the end of World War II in 1945. The US granted independence to the Philippines on July 4, 1946.

Following independence, the Philippines went from being one of the most educated and prosperous counties in Asia to a country that has suffered under home rule and been damaged by natural disasters (such as a large volcano in 1991) that have crushed the economy and displaced thousands. The 15th Filipino president was recently voted in after having several presidents impeached for corruption and six unsuccessful coup attempts. The people living in the Smokey Mountain Garbage Dumpsite were most likely born into families whose parents (the age of your grandparents) had a good education, a home and a steady income. The children born in the dump are about your age.

- *Garbage Dump Philanthropist Helps Thousands in Philippines Escape Poverty:*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_9FZG1JyHQ
- *The Garbage Children of Cebu:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6NHuggG6vU>
- *More fun in the Philippines 2012/2013 - Department of Tourism:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hssvFher8E0>
- *“Pagpag” – excerpt from BBC’s Toughest Place to be a Bus Driver:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qn0XynCvqIE&feature=related>

- *Social Media Boosts Philippines Tourism:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3BLh1AsgEO>
- *Life on the Line – Philippines:* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yw8QK2w2EH0>
- *More information about the politics in the Philippines:*
<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107887.html/?pageno=1>

➤ Brazil

Trash in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro is the second largest city in Brazil. It had one of the largest open-air trash dumps (Jardim Gramacho) in the world, standing 300 feet tall and covering an area the size of 224 football fields. The mayor referred to the dump's closure in June of 2012 as "the end to the crime that Rio committed for the last 40 years." The dump was created on a wetland depression that leached (drained away from the soil) pollutants into the bay. Five thousand Catadores made their living searching for recyclables in the dump. The Catadores still work in many other large open air-trash dumps in Brazil, but all of the open-air dumps must close by 2014. The Catadores make twice the minimum wage collecting and selling recyclables. They are extremely proud to be environmentalists, and are honest in their work. If recyclables have been bagged or piled by someone else, other collectors will not touch what has already been claimed. The Catadores have organized themselves, with the help of NGOs (non-government organizations), into recycling cooperatives. The Catadores are featured in the documentary 'Waste Land'.

- *Jardim Gramacho*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKqOckS1K_s
- *Recycling Garbage in Brazil:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=3uNC0jEt-6w&feature=endscreen>
- *Creative businesses try to solve Brazil's growing trash problem:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VzcsrZ5tDs>

Politics of Brazil

Brazil was once a colony of Portugal. The Portuguese used slave labor to grow sugar in Brazil. During this time, the Portuguese intermarried with the slaves and native tribes. Brazil was

even declared the capital of Portugal during a time of war in Europe. In an odd twist of fate, after the Prince of Portugal left his son in charge of Brazil, the son declared Brazil an independent county (1820s).

Coffee then replaced sugar as the main source of income in Brazil. In 1889, the coffee brokers took over Brazil. They were overthrown during the world depression (1930s) by the military. In 1989, Brazilians voted in their first president and quickly impeached him for corruption. The country has continued to grow in stability since this time. Brazil elected their first female president, Dilma Rousseff, in 2010. Rousseff has a unique story. In the 1970s, she was part of a group of guerilla fighter working to rid the country of military rule. She was captured and tortured for 2 years. When she was released, she worked for a more peaceful method of freedom for her country.

- *The World Meets in Brazil. Come Celebrate Life (tourism video):*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqhHFd1I3Fo>
- *'Uncontacted' tribe found in Brazil's Amazon:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeltzlkOuoo>
- *Uncontacted Amazon Tribe: First ever aerial footage:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=sLErPqqCC54&feature=endscreen>

Brazilian Slums

Brazil's big cities have huge slums, called favelas, which are part of their multicultural heritage. Drug gangs have moved into many of the favelas, and the death toll is high. Gangs are killing children at some of the highest rates in the world. Brazil's president has sent in the military to stop drug trafficking. The military has the authority to kill on sight. The video below was shot in 2010. Recently, the president has stepped up air, water and land military forces to stop drugs from entering the country. The Catadores live in the slums but earn their income from recycling. The fact that they prefer working in a smelly dump to the world of drug gangs gives the Catadores a huge bargaining chip when negotiating for their co-ops.

- *The Dark Side of Rio – Brazil 2010:*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgT1D623U9I>

Rio de Janeiro will host the 2016 Olympics. How do you think this will affect the favelas?

Class discussion:

How can these countries reduce their trash?

Hint: One common theme among all these countries is the huge tourism industry. What can the tourism industry do to reduce trash /waste?