

Can you imagine a world with garbage all over the floor, and a brown mist covering the air? Well, if we don't stop pollution, this will happen. Hi, my name is Jacob Vargas and I am here to tell you about pollution and what it is doing to our world. There are two main types of pollution, air and water pollution.

Let's talk about water! It is one of the four most important elements in our world. However, did you know that plastic has been found in tap water? According to OrbMedia, "microplastics were found in 94% of all tap water in the United States." That is not good at all! According to experts, water pollution can contaminate our drinking water.

That's not all! According to Envirotech, contaminated water can impact the economy, cause a food chain disruption, affect aquatic life, cause ecosystem damage, mental disorders, cardiovascular disease and even cancer.

Not only is our drinking water suffering, but a lot of inconsiderate people throw garbage into the ocean. How rude of them! According to Kim Preshoff from Ted Ed "This is a massive problem between California and Hawaii. There is a garbage patch three times the size of France. It is the world's biggest ocean waste repository, with 1.8 billion pieces of floating plastic that kill thousands of marine animals each year." That is a gigantic trash land!

Let's get into another of the four major elements: air. Also according to Kim Preshoff "On July 26, 1943, in Los Angeles, a green scary smoke appeared. Everyone thought it was a chemical attack." Turns out it was just smog. Smog is smoke caused by air pollution. It makes people lose visibility and makes the air hard to breathe. It is common in industrial cities like London and Glasgow. A few of the causes of air pollution are burning from cigarettes, gases from cars, and factories. Burning fuels can spread greenhouse gases that can make climate change worse. There have been 7 million deaths because of air pollution. Yikes!

You might be asking, Jacob, how can we make this stop? This all might seem unfixable, but we can put an end to it! First step: stop using cars so often. To the adults in the audience, you could carpool with people instead of driving alone! To the kids in the audience, walk somewhere or take the train or bus instead of driving in your family car. If everyone continues using cars so often there will be a lot of chemicals released into the atmosphere.

Another way to help our environment is we can recycle and put items into the right bins. That's right, we can even do a better job putting our recycling in the right cafeteria bins! We can also reuse things when possible. Instead of buying a plastic bag at the store, use a reusable bag like the one I used today to hold my essay. One of the

most important things to remember is to reduce, reuse, recycle and now you can refuse too! Refuse means to stop yourself from buying something you do not need. I'll leave you with one final thought, "Go green, and we'll breathe clean!"