

# World Environment Day Essay Competition

Topic: Sustainable Consumption: A critical subject in the 21st Century

## Category: Advanced Level

### First Place

Zain Ahmed Naseem  
Villa International High School

... Every time you purchase a product, you are consuming natural resources. Clothes, food, books, and cars are all made of natural resources. It is important to keep in mind that the products are made of limited resources so as to control how much we consume them. Consumers play a key role in altering the way of consumption. All of us being consumers of goods could try to drive the economy to a more sustainable development by change how much we purchase and dispose products and the type of goods and services we consume.

As a matter of fact, as the world's population is greatly increasing a lot of pressure is put on the natural resources. It is important to minimize the use of both renewable and non-renewable resources and at the same time improve the quality of life. 'Using less and producing more and better' should be a key motive or aim when manufacturing products. The earth has a finite amount of resources and they are being over-exploited in order to reach the high levels of demand of consumers. It is important to keep in mind to conserve the natural resources for the upcoming generations as they deserve their fair share of clean water, air and other resources just as much as we do.

### Second Place

Mohamed Muazzaz Mausoom  
Center for Higher Secondary Education

... Often here in Maldives, especially in recent times, people have garnered an attitude to attribute environmental issues such as global warming, pollution and any such problems as things we have nothing to do with. Any issue not directly related to sea-level rise is barely known at all, let alone acknowledged as a serious issue; and to think we can do anything about those problems is borderline luxury in many people's eyes.

Our attitude to environmental problems should be changed if we are to stand a chance of changing anything at all. We may merely be a drop in the ocean of troubles our world has, but without that one drop, the ocean will be that little bit smaller.

Third Place  
Ibrahim Widhaadh  
Villa International High School

Since the discovery of electricity by Benjamin Franklin in the 19th century and the invention of light bulbs by Sir Humphry Davy, our lives have changed drastically. The machines took over the course of all the work we do in our daily life, which all comes down to a matter of energy. Energy drives the human body as such it drives the rest of the things in the world. With more machines built the pressure was on to find a reliable power source to drive the hearts of all these machinery. Over the years hundreds of scientists have come up with innovative ideas to find a power source, in which a well-known invention is the turbine generator invented by Michael Faraday. It was a ground breaking discovery whereby the aim was to benefit all living beings. However one crucial element came into a great disadvantage! The environment ...

## Category: Ordinary Level

### First Place

Aishath Ashna Abdul Rasheed  
Iskandhar School

... At our present consumption, our world might be changed considerably in only 40 to 80 years- that is my lifetime! If we continue as we currently do, we may leave the world an extremely dark and hopeless place for the next generation, with less opportunities and only mixture resources. Let us look at a few examples.

If we consider the stock of fish in the world, we find extremely alarming statistics. It is estimated that 80% of the global fish stocks are being used at, or beyond their capacity. Moreover, it is found that in majority of the areas in the world, it has been already overfished, and as a result, the fish stocks are not able to replenish itself at as fast a rate as we can hope. What I suppose is more alarming is that the rate of decline, rather than decreasing, is moving in the opposite direction, upwards! This news is especially terrifying for us Maldivians, as fishing is not only our main source of food, but one of our oldest and most important income generating industries ...

### Second Place

Mariyam Azha Ibrahim  
Iskandhar School

... Waste and the disposal of it, is growing concern nowadays. The problem with waste is that there is not enough space in the world to accommodate all of it. Kitchen waste may decay quickly, but what about plastic? It takes centuries, maybe even millennia, to decompose them. Our current solution; dump all the waste into a huge fire, and watch the pungent, harmful

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smoke rise up into the air. We might be getting rid of that waste, but we are also getting rid of Mother Earth, one factory load of harmful chemicals and toxins at a time. No wonder the Earths' atmosphere has a huge hole in it now. If this carries on, global warming is going to increase, and that will again harm the Earth more. Do we really want our bright green pastures to be replaced with acrid dying deserts, our rivers with thick slimy sludges of harmful chemicals, that vast expanse of clear blue sky with an endless cloud of suffocating smoke? No? In that case, I think we should cut burning waste off our list. Maybe it is time we try reducing our waste instead of trying to make it disappear ...

**Third Place**  
**Sifa Mohamed Adam**  
**Hiriyah School**

... Our mother Earth is currently running out of resources which most of us have no idea about and the people who do have knowledge of it chooses to ignore. Maybe because everyone wants to live in the moment and it is in most of our nature to not think about what tomorrow may bring... It is not too late to preserve the gifts our planet has provided us. We can return a favour to it, for giving us fresh air, water, food and all those things that are probably uncountable... We need to stop asking the Earth to give us more than what it can. We need to stop being selfish and cut the Earth some slack. We need to preserve the resources and we need to think about tomorrow. It is about time we returned the favour...

## World Environment Day Poetry Competition

**Topic: Think. Eat. Save**  
**Category: Advanced Level**

**First Place**  
**Mohamed Muazzaz Mausoom**  
**Center for Higher Secondary Education**

To be frank we are on the brink  
 Our Noah's ark is going to sink  
 We'll all be dropped into the drink  
 And all because we did not think.

We eat and drink without any heed  
 To the fully of our wasteful deed  
 The situation's grave indeed  
 When the poor begin to beg and plead.

If those with plenty would believe  
 The needy will get what they crave  
 And thus a road, we will help poor  
 To help our earth which we can yet save.

**Second Place**  
**Aminath Azba**

I want to save  
 Our home from the sun's glare  
 All life on the planet I share  
 For they are not our slave

I want to save  
 The pedestrians from the grime  
 The politicians from committing crime  
 And see the situations they pave

I want to save  
 The soldiers in pointless fight  
 Their families from horrific fright  
 Crying at their grave

I want to save  
 The families in Starvation  
 Victimized by useless conversation  
 While we pollute and rave

I want to save  
 Us, and save us fast  
 We don't have time to undo our past  
 Let's not let our actions be our last.

**Third Place**  
**Ibrahim Muan Asad**  
**Villa International High School**

The World is dying  
 And there's no denying  
 But we can't save it all alone  
 Let's join hands and unite  
 And then we can ignite  
 The way to work as one

Let's think about it  
 Let's give what we have to those who need  
 Let's feed hungry  
 Let's help the poor and homeless  
 Let's save a life  
 Join together and raise our voices  
 Let's all sing a song  
 And let's all get along

From one side to the other  
 We should help one another  
 Help those in need of food and shelter  
 One little contribution can make it better

We can't be greedy  
 We must share  
 With the needy  
 To show that we care

We are all for one and one for all  
 We should join together and stand tall  
 Let us Think. Eat. Save  
 And the path to a bright future; we can pave

## Category: Ordinary Level

### Third Place

Aishath Ashna Abdul Rasheed  
Iskandhar School

Many a child, man and lady walk skeleton thin  
Hunger-borne, and with poverty stricken, bare  
No breakfast, dinner of lunch, no food within  
To hold the hunger which makes them stare  
At the men and women who daily throw  
Good meat, and tender fruit all  
While this state stops not at the door  
Of the rich, but known classes all  
But must this monotonous melancholy  
Continue in a world so advanced  
Reflect should we not with food daily  
About others without which do?  
So think before you waste, eat but do not throw  
Save, to sustain the world for even more.

## Category: University

### First Place

Fathimath Zooshan  
Maldives National University

There was once a time  
When in abundance yours was the world.  
But met with men and their ways  
Time has left a tale to be told

Think.

Whatever happened to the green around you?  
What became of the land and rivers too?  
The land that once welcomed men with open arms  
Now withdraws as deserts met with firearms.  
The tress that once provided men with shade  
Now in great numbers from the earth doth fade.  
What of the rivers that provided water?  
That too became polluted by a son and a daughter.

Think.

Who is to be blamed but you?  
For the changes around you by things you do.

Save.

A little water every day,  
For the future generations if you may,  
And if you will please  
Plant so that the heat will cease.  
But more so save the land  
So you may walk with loves once hand in hand.

Eat

Only so much that you require.  
And others to save do inspire.  
Give others half of that you eat,  
So greed may not itself in you seat.  
Live not as if the world was yours alone.  
But leave it as a better home for others once you're gone.

Second Place  
Aishath Rashfa

Maldives National University  
If you are thinking of throwing me away  
You need to think of me in another way  
Look at me and see the farmer who grew me  
Nurtures and helped me from seed to tree  
His hands speak of the hard work he put  
Not tires and sick, never did he quit  
Many fruits he grew but none he got to taste  
Only for someone to let me to go to waste  
So don't think of me only as something you bought  
Take a second, give me a second thought

Think of the time spent and the oil burnt  
Oil that may not be there later when we want  
Value of it gone to carrying and distributing me  
Carried to you over distances of land, air and sea  
By men breaking their backs for livelihood  
For them to earn a little and get some food  
Rations less than what we throw out easily  
Divided, shared and eaten by just one family

Think of women and children dying from starvation  
Lives lost to diseases and deaths from dehydration  
Do you know I was given their share of water?  
Or that your food can make someone's life better  
Can you ever make up for the water they lost?  
The food they had least and salvaged most  
Can you ever imagine yourself in their shoes?  
The way they valued food that others don't use  
So if you are thinking of throwing me away  
Take a minute and hear what I have to say

I am the result of a famer's hard work  
The oil and energy that went up in the smoke  
I am the water available in such scarcity  
The water inaccessible to those in poverty  
I am the meal shared over heads of many  
Treasured buy those suffering war and tyranny  
So hear my saying and realize my worth  
Take the time to give me a second thought

Third Place  
Bishaara Adam  
Villa College

People utter,  
People suffer,  
But do we think or care?  
No, we don't

People cry,  
People try,  
'Cause they got nothing to eat.  
But do we share?  
No, we don't.

We've got so much to wear,  
And we've got so much to eat.  
Yet we always chose to waste,  
But never to save.

Oh, how wonderful life would be,  
If everyone thought to share.  
Oh, how healthy life would be,  
If everyone bothered to care.  
Oh, how beautiful the world would be,  
If all of us just cared to share,  
The beauty of life with each other.

If all of us just thought to think then eat,  
And bothered to share or save,  
Without a huge waste,  
Life would have been such a better place.

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