

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

ELA Grade 7 Unit 2 Activity 2.11-2.12 - Print

1

In “America the Not-So-Beautiful,” Andrew A. Rooney claims that Americans need to cut back on wastefulness in order to save the planet. Click to highlight the sentences in the excerpt from “America the Not-So-Beautiful” that support this claim.

[The problem is staggering.] Not highlighted: The problem is staggering. [I often think of it when I go in the hardware store or a Sears Roebuck and see shelves full of poison.] Not highlighted: [I often think of it when I go in the hardware store or a Sears Roebuck and see shelves full of poison.] You know that, one way or another, it's all going to end up in the Earth or in our rivers and lakes.

[I have two pint bottles of insecticide with 3 percent DDT in them in my own garage that I don't know what to do with.] Not highlighted: [I have two pint bottles of insecticide with 3 percent DDT in them in my own garage that I don't know what to do with.] I bought them years ago when I didn't realize how bad they were. Now I'm stuck with them.

[The people of the city of New York throw away nine times their weight in garbage and junk every year.] Not highlighted: The people of the city of New York throw away nine times their weight in garbage and junk every year. [Assuming other cities come close to that, how long will it be before we trash the whole Earth?] Not highlighted: Assuming other cities come close to that, how long will it be before we trash the whole Earth?

[Not only that, but Americans spend more for the packaging of food than all our farmers together make in income growing it.] Not highlighted: Not only that, but Americans spend more for the packaging of food than all our farmers together make in income growing it. [That's some statistic.] Not highlighted: [That's some statistic.]

2

What evidence does author Andrew A. Rooney use in “America the Not-So-Beautiful” to support his claim that throwing things out is “the American way”?

- A) In the United States, places that used to be called dumps are now called landfills.
- B) The United States economy is based on buying new things rather than fixing them.
- C) Unlike the United States, some ancient cultures passed laws prohibiting people from throwing out garbage.
- D) While poorer countries simply dispose of things in the streets, richer countries like the United States create landfills.

3

Read the excerpt from “America the Not-So-Beautiful” by Andrew A. Rooney.

The best solution may be for all of us to pack up, board a spaceship, and move out. If Mars is habitable, everyone on Earth can abandon this planet we've trashed, move to Mars, and start trashing that. It'll buy us some time.

Why does the author include this as the last paragraph?

- A) to ridicule those who oppose his ideas
- B) to show he is not serious about his argument
- C) to suggest an unexpected solution to the problem
- D) to emphasize that there are few realistic alternatives

4

Read the excerpt from the Los Angeles Times article “Another Study Highlights the Insanity of Selling Junk Food in School Vending Machines.”

For many students, “back to school” means back to a vending machine diet. As you might guess, this isn’t necessarily a good thing for student health.

Vending machines are found in 16% of U.S. elementary schools, 52% of middle schools and 88% of high schools. About 22% of students in grades 1 through 12 buy food in vending machines each day—and those purchases added an average of 253 calories to their diets, according to a new study in the September issue of the *Journal of School Health*.

Just to be clear, those were not 253 calories’ worth of tofu, yogurt or carrot sticks. The most popular vending machine items included soft drinks, candy, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes and ice cream. On the plus side, kids also bought low-fat milk, fruit juice and even fruit, the study found.

Which **best** describes the author’s use of reasons and evidence to support her claim?

- A)The author explores both sides of the issue.
- B)The author taps into the emotions of her audience.
- C)The author recounts a series of unrelated reasons.
- D)The author focuses on research data and statistics.

5

Read the excerpt from the *Los Angeles Times* article “Another Study Highlights the Insanity of Selling Junk Food in School Vending Machines.”

But the net effect on kids’ diets was not good. Those who bought from vending machines ate an average of 156 grams of sugar per day, compared with 146 grams for those who abstained. They also consumed less dietary fiber, iron and B vitamins like thiamine, riboflavin, niacin and folate.

One silver lining: Vending machine customers ate 4% less sodium than other students—an average of 3,287 milligrams per day compared with 3,436 mg for those who didn’t buy from vending machines. That’s probably because the extra snacks made kids too full to eat as much at mealtime, when dishes are especially salty. In any event, kids should eat no more than 1,200 to 1,500 mg of sodium each day, according to the Mayo Clinic. (Even for adults, the government recommends a daily limit of 2,300 mg.)

Overall, vending machines in school appear to be taking a toll on public health. The researchers—from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Food & Nutrition Database Research Inc. of Okemos, Mich.—calculated that all that snacking adds up to about 14 extra pounds per child per school year.

Which **best** describes the author’s claim in this article?

- A)The country is experiencing increasing rates of many types of diseases.
- B)Vending machine customers eat less salt but more sugar than other students.
- C)Schools should not allow students to spend their lunch money on snack foods.
- D)School vending machines contribute to unhealthy eating habits among young people.