

Why Pens are better than Pencils

BY JACOB MORGAN
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GRADE 8

I think that pens are better than pencils. I will tell you why in this passage.

The first reason why I think pens are better than pencils, is because you have to sharpen pencils, but you don't have to sharpen pens. All you have to do is click a pen. It is much easier to click a pen than

sharpen a pencil.

The second reason is that pencils have lead. And that lead breaks, making you need to sharpen it. Pen tips don't normally break, so pens are much more efficient. Plus, when you sharpen a pencil, it gets smaller.

That brings us to our third reason, pens last longer than pencils. Pencils get smaller each time you sharpen them, where as pens don't get smaller ever. Pen ink lasts much longer than pencils. So in my opinion, pens are

still better and more efficient than pencils.

A fourth reason why pens are better than pencils is because pens write smoother than pencils in my opinion. I just feel like it is much smoother when writing with a pen, so that is what I prefer to write things with. Pens being able to write smoother than pencils makes the writing look much nicer. So that means that writing in pen looks nicer than pencil writing. So there's another point for pens.

My fifth reason is that pens are much nicer than pencils because pencils make my fingers hurt if I write with them for too long. Writing in pen works better for writing longer things. This is much better than having to hurt your fingers by writing with a hard, wooden pencil. So if you want to avoid a painful experience of using a pencil, use a pen instead.

So that is why I think than pens are better than pencils, and would always prefer to use a pen when writing.

Virginia Eliza Clemm Poe

BY SOPHIA SENEFF
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GRADE 7

I choose Virginia Poe, who was Edgar Allen Poe's wife/first cousin.

I choose Virginia Poe because I am related to Edgar Allen Poe, and because I wanted to learn more about her since I know mostly about Edgar Allen Poe.

Virginia Poe was born in 1822 in Baltimore, Maryland. Her father, William Clemm, Jr., was a hardware merchant, who married Maria Poe, after the death of his first wife, Harriet. Maria was Harriet's first cousin.

Virginia had seven siblings. Virginia met her first cousin Edgar Allen Poe in 1832, a couple of months after his discharge of the army. She was seven at the time.

In 1832, Virginia's family rented a home in Baltimore. By the time of 1835,

Edgar considered marrying Virginia, despite her youth. On May 16, 1836, 27-year-old Edgar married 13-year-old Virginia. (Though her age was listed as 21).

It was not particularly unusual for first cousins to marry at the time, she was a little bit young, though.

Poe personally tutored her in classics and mathematics. She excelled during singing and piano lessons, developing a beautiful voice.

They moved many times, because of Poe's inability of financial success. His employment took him to many cities.

On January 20, 1842, Virginia was singing and playing the piano, when she began to cough up blood. This pulmonary hemorrhaging was a symptom of tuberculosis. This disease had already killed many of Edgar's loved ones.

She died January 30, 1847 at age 24. As you can see Virginia's life was very interesting, this is why I choose to write about her.

Should Children and Teens Have Cell Phones?

BY HAILEY BROWN
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Do you believe children or teens should have cell phones? I do not. There are many reasons why children should not have cell phones. Sometimes children and teens do not sleep well because they have their cell phones by their bed, there are many dangers on a cell phone, and teens can become distracted and addicted to their cell phones.

Children and teens who have phones sometimes do not sleep well. As Susan Davis, WebMD says, "In a recent survey, four out of five cell phone-owning

teens sleep with their phone beside their bed." Therefore, they do not miss a text message. However, when it is time for school, students are tired and do not focus during classes.

There are many dangers within a cell phone. According to Susan Davis, WebMD "Many smartphones have a "sharing location" feature, which could raise concerns about people stalking children as they go from place to place." This is a very dangerous feature for any cell phone user, especially children.

Teens and children can easily become addicted and distracted to their cell phones. Kelly Wallace, CNN state

"Fifty percent of teens feel they are addicted to their mobile devices." Many children get distracted to their devices also.

You could argue that they can be used for safety reasons. However, there are still reasons that using a phone for safety reasons are not safe. For example, their phone could go dead and you would not be able to check on or talk to them. There is also a possibility that they could lose it.

Children should not have cell phones for many reasons. They may not sleep well, cell phones are very dangerous, and they could become distracted and addicted.

Everyone Should Convert to No Waste Lifestyle

BY KIYA WHITE
SOUTH SPENCER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Did you know that in 2013, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash, just in that year? Americans should convert to no waste lifestyles. As found in the EPA's report on municipal solid waste, of all the trash that was produced in 2013, only about 87 million tons of it was recycled or composted. Leaving 167 million tons to go to landfills. This is why we should convert to no waste lifestyles.

As Zero Waste America's website says, the U.S has over 10,000 old municipal

landfills, of which, only 3,091 are used currently. Though only 3,091 are in use, they are still dangerous. According to greenchoices.org, even when buried, not all waste will rot, and what does not rot still produces methane gas (along with the smell) which is explosive and contributes to the greenhouse effect. South China Morning Post wrote an article about when a study was done in the area of Lazio, Italy (1996-2008), results showed a strong connection between hydrogen sulphide and deaths caused by lung cancer. Following this subject, there were many cases of deaths and hospitalizations for respiratory diseases. Results were especially high in

children. Keep this in mind when I tell you that in 2013 Americans only put five feet of cover soil on a seven hundred acer, five hundred foot tall landfill, and proceeded to turn it into a park as I found on npr.org.

Another reason we should convert to no waste life styles is that too much of our planet is covered in landfills. As National Geographic's website says, 55% of the world is buried in landfills. According to earth911.com, of the estimated 251 million tons of American waste generated each year, about 32.5% is recycled, 12.5% is burned, and the rest put in landfills. Because of waste being put in landfills,

we have no choice but to build more, which is not healthy for our planet and it does not leave much room for other buildings. Despite the fact that some trash does break down, only some does. Found on thebalance.com, on average plastic bags take 10-1,000 years, water bottles take about 2,150 years, and plastic items in general can take up to 1,000 years to decompose. Seeing as more than half of our planet is covered in landfills, we should stop being so dependent on them. No-waste lifestyles will help our planet and in the end, help us, too. As lovetoknow.com tells, U.S landfills produced 148 million metric tons of Co2

equivalent to the atmosphere in 2014 alone; this helps lead to global warming.

Another reason, as ncbi.gov showed, some people who live near individual landfill sites, usually have increases in risks of adverse health effects (low birth weight, birth defects, and certain types of cancers). This was found in multiuse sites too. These are just some of the reasons we need to convert to no-waste lifestyles.

We should convert to no-waste lifestyles to make more room for new buildings, not be so dependent on landfills, and help our planet along with the people on it. On top of the reasons and evidence given to you today, here are

some things you can do to take action: use reusable bags when grocery shopping, make your own products, use re-usable items, use items that are not bought in plastic containers.

Flowers

BY JAMIE MARCUM

ROCKPORT ELEMENTARY

GRADE 5

Flowers are so cute. They make me sneeze in summer. They shine in the light!

NAME: Garvin Shields
GRADE: 4th SCHOOL: Lincoln Trail Elm

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NAME: Addyson Lindsey
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