

Fairchild Tropical Botanic garden AT Mourning

When we wake up in the morning, I doubt you think of what actually goes on in our world. Do you stop and think about how every time we exhale, carbon dioxide goes into the atmosphere? Do you really even know much about the world we live in? I don't think Americans, let alone humans, really know much about the environment they live in. If you see a palm tree, a majority of people can tell what it is, but what if I show them a mangrove? That was my objective. I wanted to see if anyone could identify what a mangrove was if it was out right in front of them. Not one could identify the mangrove plant. Included with that, I questioned whether or not they know how much water we actually use a day. A majority of the answers were in the double digits. The EPA says that an average family of four may use up to 400 gallons of water daily. Also, we don't understand how much water goes into things we consume. For example, PETA said that "more than 2,400 gallons of water to produce 1 pound of meat." Over 2,000 gallons of water, for one measly pound of meat? That's crazy!

The last question I asked was if we know how drought affects plant life. I don't think Floridians remember when we went through the driest drought recorded in 2006-2007. People had to cut down on showers, and stop watering their lawn... But did they? Everyone interviewed seemed to know that plants die when drought happens. Us as humans don't know the impact that we have on our environment. We go about our days thinking that we have an endless supply of resources, but we don't actually know that everything has a time limit. Everything we do has a constant consequence. Every action there is a similar reaction. Everything is not tangible and it isn't always going to be there, but we make it seem like it's going to stay there forever, but what we don't know is the fact that it's getting used up. And we are using all the resources that we have. Soon, there is not going to be enough for future generations.

I'm talking about plants and water and people probably don't even care, they just look in me like "oh she's just some girl just trying to put a point across." I'm not just trying to do that; I'm trying to make a difference in the fact that we don't know how much water we really use. We don't know what a drought really is because we think about it as, oh I can still take one hour Showers, and I can still overwater my lawn, and I don't have to cut back that much.

We think that everything is for our use only and we are very greedy people. We like everything for only ourselves. When we do bad things like, putting plastic bottles into the ocean, or littering, we do it without thinking that if it can affect that everyone. The biggest "mountain" that Florida has is a landfill! Don't forget that Florida is flat, we know that's all garbage and it is releasing toxins into the air which is killing our ozone and people of the world. People view us Americans as horrible people that don't give a damn. Then people get all defensive when they are called this, which is kind of joke, because I don't see anyone trying to make a difference...

My teacher is the only person who ever put it in my mind about trying to save the environment, and actually cutting back on a lot of things that I do because it is affecting everything around me it's going to affect you generations. What can I do to change this? Not many people can actually change something like this but I can try. I can get the point across to people that you need to actually care, and you need to realize what is going on and people have misconceptions about plant and water. People think that when in a drought you can still use, as many resources as you did, but what they don't understand is that when there is no rain, how are the rivers that we get our water from, how are they supposed to fill back up? What do they think that we get it from the holes that are connected to some major water factory? Clouds produce water and water is produced from nature. We just keep using it when we are not getting any back. It's like taking marbles from a bag and expecting there to be marbles every time you stick your hand inside. We have change in any small way we can, by converting to the metal bottles to eco-friendly bottles. We are constantly buying water bottles... that is something you can get from the tap water, and it tastes better than bottled water, and if you don't believe me please do a blindfolded water test because I know I did. Trust me there is no difference.

Everyone must make a difference that everybody can see that I'm 18 years old in high school trying to the point across that we're killing the environment that we live in. we are trying to keep something, and a lot of that, were killing ourselves. If you want your future generations to be able to have the luxuries that you do, you need to cut back a little bit. We need to stop being so selfish... Americans think the world revolves around us and it doesn't it really doesn't. We need to try to make a difference, as a whole. I know, I know, it's easier said than done, but I know we can. Things like this

happen everyday. So turn off your shower a little earlier, start drinking the tap water, and maybe start turning off the water when brushing your teeth. The little things make the biggest difference.