

# What is a persuasive text?

**Directions:** Read the essay. Then answer the questions.

Did you just throw that cardboard pizza box into the trash can? You're going to jail! If it were illegal not to recycle — if you really could go to jail for not doing it — then you would recycle, wouldn't you? It wouldn't be too much trouble then. Well it's not too much trouble now. Recycling should be legally mandated. Not enough people are recycling of their own free will, and our planet is suffering because of it.



Throughout the world, about 900 million trees are cut down every year. And yet approximately one billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year! If we recycled all of our paper, then we would hardly have to cut down any more trees for paper at all. For every ton (2000 pounds) of paper we recycle, we can save 17 trees.

Did you know that Americans represent only 5% of the world's population, but they produce 30% of the world's garbage? That's right: the average American produces 7.5 pounds of garbage every day. If it's illegal to litter — to toss one piece of non-biodegradable material on the ground — then why isn't it illegal to throw a million pounds of it into a landfill? Well that's how much you, and every other person in this country, is throwing into a landfill every single year.

No one wants to go to prison, which is why jail time for not recycling is such a great idea. And the best part is, every time we recycle something, we wouldn't just be saving ourselves, we'd be saving our planet!

## Questions

1. What is the main idea of this text?
2. Write 2 facts they have used in the text?
3. Draw a poster that matches the text.