

Think +

Is the cup half empty or half full? By answering half full signifies you as a more optimistic person. The definition of optimism is hope, confidence, and cheerfulness all clashed into one. Having optimism or a positive outlook is important and essential in achieving goals and living a happier life. Because in cases when a pessimist starts to doubt his or herself, he or she loses confidence and will most likely fail. Therefore, in order fulfill our aspirations in life, it is crucial to believe in our abilities and think optimistic.

Some people, like me, who are afraid of being different and attracting attention quietly exist in order to blend in with the crowd. But until recently I have uncovered a passion, and it will not be silenced. Every time I think about it, a flush of emotions flare with a combination of longing and helplessness. I have always loved animals, and I have always sympathized with the global changes occurring to the Earth. I have always wanted to help out, and do something but nothing has ever impacted and motivated me as much as when I learned about the horror behind storm drains.

If only I had a huge vacuum backpack, I would travel the country and suck up all the litter in the streets. However, I would still only cover a certain amount of land. Litter accumulates everyday as people continue to litter their trash with an out of sight out of mind mentality. But litter will not go down so easily without a fight. When rain strikes congested urban areas such as L.A, all the litter you see in the alleys, against the streets, on the floor, all the paper bags, Styrofoam cups, plastic wrappers, cigarettes butts, will get flushed down the storm drains (openings in the streets) and straight into the ocean. Thus causing the bacteria levels in the

ocean to rise, and beaches to close down. A little action such dog feces left over from an owner who did not clean up after their pet may take years and millions of tax dollars to clean because of the high levels of bacteria feces contain.

Most people tend to believe that the rain water goes through a filter system before it is released into the ocean. We do have filters for our sanitary drains such as for sink water, toilet exhaust, but these storm drains do not have a filter because they are intended to drain out rain and only rain. The storm drains technically lead the rain water into the L.A River. During rainy seasons, government officials have tried to obstruct the litter by interjecting a huge net in front of the opening of the storm boom, a tube where water drains out into the L.A River; however, since the currents come out at such an immense speed that at least 150 tons of litter simply bypasses the net. So basically tiny pieces of litter such as cigarettes, the most commonly littered item, along with more than half the trash gets flushed into the ocean. And marine animals suffer from the effect, and some fishes even eat the residue believing it is food and die. Our fishermen pronounce that our fish population has decreased dramatically over the years, and pretty soon, we will neither be able to enjoy seafood nor a safe beach.

My reaction to all this information inspired me to form a goal. A goal to start a new club, an environmentalist club, one that works on spreading the word to everyone about how we are harming the Earth in the many ways that we do not even know about. And as a president of this club, I will make sure to involve the members in community service, beach clean-ups, planting trees, or collecting bottles. I realized, that as much as I dislike leading, I feel that I need to make this stand or I will regret it my whole life. Leading a club will be different for me and a difficulty. But as Winston Churchill, a hero in world war two, once said, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

My dream is to help reduce litter so that our future generations will be able to experience the same pleasures we find in nature today. I am driven and compelled by my passion that stay bouy by my optimistic thoughts to create an environmentalist club. I think of it as my beginning to giving back to the beautiful world I was born into.