

## A Battle Against Bottled Water

Try to picture 30 *billion* plastic bottles. That's five times as many bottles as there are people in the entire world. And that's how many bottles of water North Americans buy *every year*. Unfortunately, most of those bottles will end up in landfills or the ocean. This is just one of the reasons why it's time to stop using plastic water bottles.

Bottled water is damaging to the environment. Less than 20% of plastic bottles are recycled. The rest fill up landfills, taking hundreds of years to decompose. Scientists report that there is an island of discarded plastic in the Pacific Ocean that is more than twice the size of Texas.

Bottled water is also really expensive. A bottle of water can cost up to \$2 or more, while tap water costs almost nothing. In fact, bottled water costs more than gasoline! Most of that money doesn't pay for the water itself. It's for packaging, advertising, and selling. We spend over \$15 billion a year on bottled water—and that's over and above what we've already paid in taxes for our own tap water.

Some people argue that bottled water is healthier and tastes better than tap water. Actually, much of the water that we buy in bottles is really just tap water! Sometimes it has been purified, but not always. In some ways, tap water is even better for you. For example, many cities add fluoride to tap water to prevent cavities and tooth decay. In most places, tap water is more carefully checked for bacteria than bottled water is. But does it taste better? Showtime Television gave people in New York a hidden taste test of bottled versus tap water, and 75% of them actually preferred the taste of the tap water!

So the next time you want to take a drink to the beach, on a run, or for a ride in the car, grab a reusable bottle and fill it from the kitchen faucet. You'll be doing some good for your body, your wallet and the earth.



## BEFORE READING

How do you feel about bottled water? The passage you are going to read gives an opinion – how the author feels – about it. Look at the title. Can you predict the author’s opinion before you read?

## DURING READING

The author of this piece is trying to convince you to think the way she does, to *persuade* you to agree with her opinion. Read with a pencil! As you read, mark any ideas you agree with (✓) or disagree with (x).

## AFTER READING

Some things to think about:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the author? Why or why not?
2. Has the author done a good job of supporting her opinion? Why or why not?
3. Which do you think is the most important reason the author gives?
4. What is an argument *against* getting rid of bottled water?
5. A good argument often ends with an “I, YOU OR WE” – a call for the reader, the writer or everyone to take action. What does this author ask readers to do?

### Something to do: WHAT, WHY AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?

**WHAT, WHY AND HOW DO YOU KNOW** is a tool for organizing persuasive writing. Persuasive writing should contain good reasons for the opinion and explanations for those reasons.

**Other people might say...** is an argument *against* the author’s opinion. **But I say...** gives the author a chance to refute that argument.

Use the **WHAT, WHY AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?** organizer to summarize this passage on Bottled Water.



# WHAT, WHY & HOW DO YOU KNOW?

WHAT?	WHY?	HOW DO YOU KNOW?
It's time to stop using plastic water bottles.		

Other People Might Say...	But I say...
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