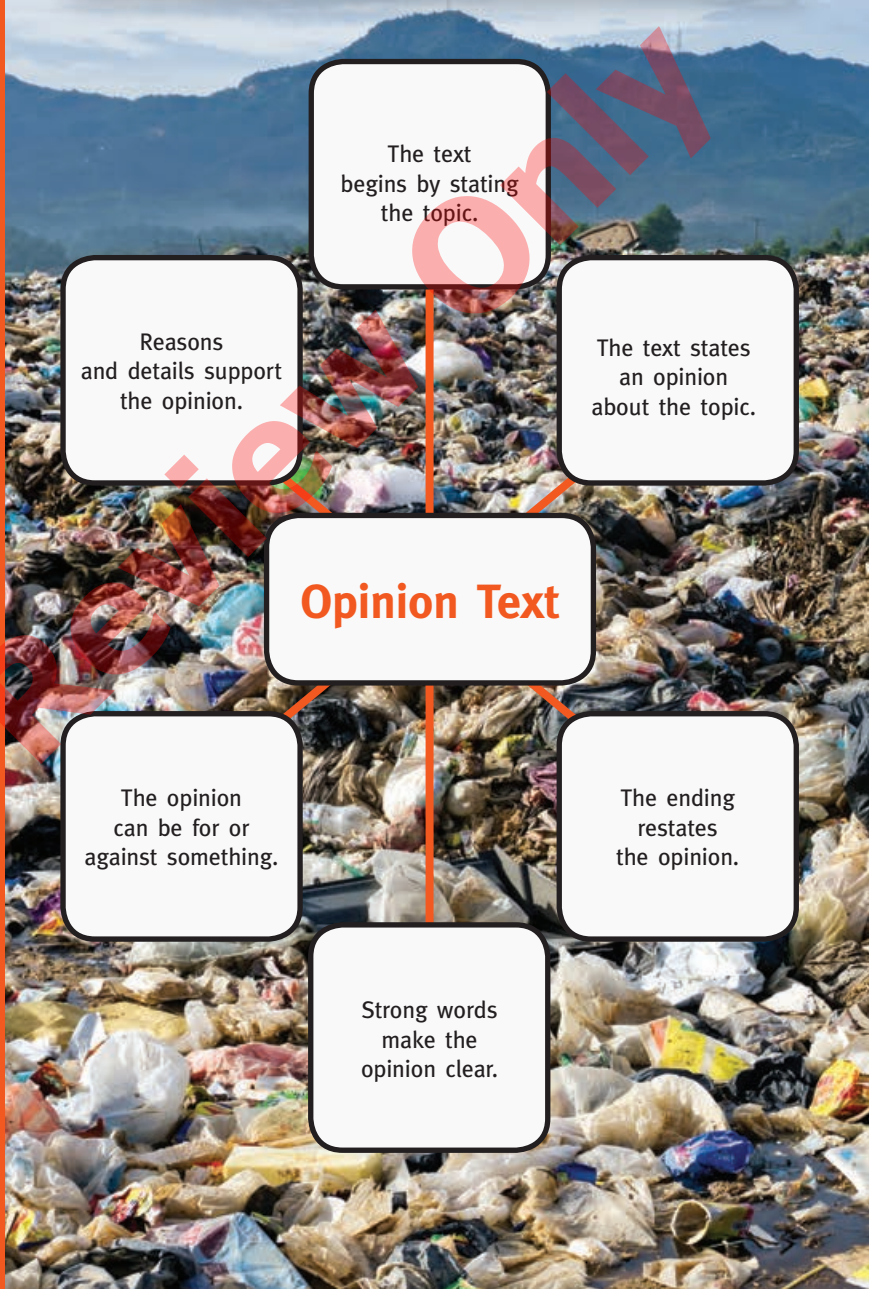


Opinions About Waste



Opinion Text

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



The text begins by stating the topic.

Reasons and details support the opinion.

The text states an opinion about the topic.

Opinion Text

The opinion can be for or against something.

The ending restates the opinion.

Strong words make the opinion clear.

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Where Does Waste Go?

Every day people make garbage, or waste. In the United States, a person throws away 2 kilograms (4 pounds) of solid waste per day. Most of it goes into a garbage can. Then it is carted away to a **landfill**.

▼ People throw out trash, or waste, every day.



A landfill is a large hole in the ground. Every day, more garbage is added. When the landfill is full, the trash is covered with soil. Then a new hole is dug and filled with waste.

Trucks like this bring waste to landfills. ►



But this waste does not go away. Much of the waste in landfills does not break down. This waste can pollute the air, soil, and water. It takes up a lot of space. It also costs money to deal with.

- ▼ Food waste can take days or weeks to break down.





- ▲ Other waste, like plastic, takes hundreds of years to break down.

Plus, a lot of waste never makes it to landfills. Instead, it pollutes lakes, rivers, and oceans.

What can people do? In this book, you will learn about the problems waste causes. You will also read opinions about how to solve these problems.

The Trouble with Trash

The main problem with waste is that it causes **pollution**. It litters streets and sewers. It washes into the ocean. It poisons living things on land and in the water. This is bad for the planet. It is also bad for human health.

- ▼ Pollution harms living things on land and in the water.

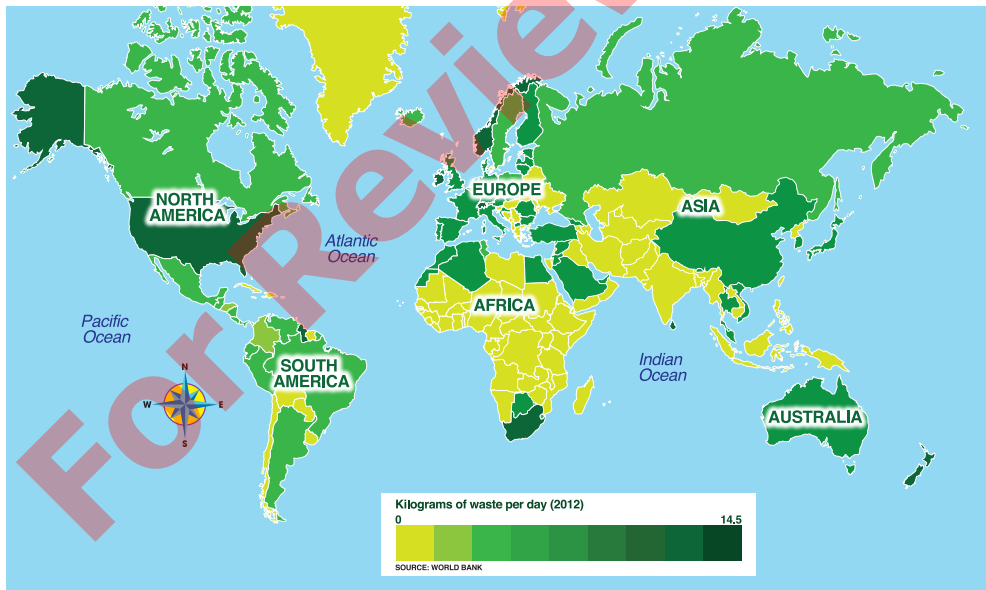


The waste in landfills can cause pollution, too. Harmful chemicals can poison the air. They can also seep into soil, streams, and rivers. This poisons the soil and drinking water.

People need clean air to breathe. They need clean water to drink. They also need healthy soil to grow food. If the air, water, and land are polluted, then people will suffer.



The amount of waste also causes problems. The United States makes 600,000 tons of garbage each day. Most of the waste in landfills does not **decompose**, or break down. Landfills take up space. Some cities have no place left to put their trash.



▲ The United States makes more waste than any other country.



▲ Waste removal is expensive.

The other problem is that cleaning up waste is costly. Workers must be paid to pick up trash and care for landfills. The United States spends about \$200 billion on trash every year.

How can people solve these problems?