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American Lit.

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Deforestation

Over 30% of the earth's surface is covered with forests (1). Trees absorb a fifth of carbon emissions pumped out by humans (2). In Brazil forests, area size of 200 football fields of rain forest is being chopped down every 6 minutes (3). The earth's forests are quickly disappearing before our very eyes. If we don't stop cutting down trees at the rate we are now, in a hundred years we will not have any forests left (4). The consequences of this are harsher air that we breathe. In the American media this is not a very important issue. That is why we need to make it an issue by showing the importance of deforestation. If we can reform the way we think of deforestation in America, we can then impact the world.

Deforestation is the permanent destruction of indigenous forests and woodlands. Not only do we lose trees and plants but with the destruction of forests we are demolishing natural habitats of the animals that call the forests home like the beautiful Scarlet Macaw and the Giant Ant Eater which are endangered animals losing their homes, who will eat all the ants once they are extinct? That includes the human species. How many of you like to go camping in the woods or like to wake up to hear the birds singing their song? Without the plants and trees that clean our air and produce oxygen, every living organism would slowly suffocate from the carbon emissions of every day life. This will affect every individual on the planet. That is why I propose we start making this

more apparent in the public eye and change the way we think about our planet.

We can start small within the community. Arrange public hearings to inform the public of dangerous companies that log more trees than needed. Protest outside of lumberyards that buy from harmful logging companies. Boycott the lumberyards and major companies. Eventually gain recognition of what the group is trying to do and have local support for the cause. That's why you need to start informing everyone you know of the extinction of the forests. With the local media on our side, the cause will then grow to state wide help and support.

In order to have this be a household topic of conversation throughout the nation we must march to Washington D.C. to address the Senators and Representatives and give our reasons why the public can't do it alone. A peaceful public outcry will get the attention of our politicians, who have the power to make legislative changes. The first person we will address is President Obama. With the help of our nations leader we will be able to then reach out to the world. I suggest that laws are made to control and regulate how many trees are cut down and only during certain seasons that trees may be cut down.

Deforestation is a major problem that affects the world. If the current media is infected with the idea that a group of high school students can change the way of major companies, then kids around the world can be inspired to change even major problems like ending world hunger. Now go out there and start writing letters to Senators Feinstein and Boxer. May the forests be with you.

1. http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/about_forests/
2. http://actrees.org/files/Newsroom/telegraph_onefifthco2.pdf
3. <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/last-of-amazon.html>
4. <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/last-of-amazon.html>

Last week, Japanese scientists placed explosive detonators at the bottom of Lake Loch Ness to blow Nessie out of the water. Sir Cort Godfrey of the Nessie Alliance summoned the help of Scotland's local wizards to cast a protective spell over the lake and its local residents and all those who seek for the peaceful existence of our underwater ally.