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Humanities- ⅘
 **Fact Sheet:
Working Thesis:** Do something to lessen the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (Banning the sale of water bottles)

**General Overview of the Issue:** Plastic water bottles are one of the main causes of marine debris along with taking up the space of landfills. Plastic cannot biodegrade. The cost and the amount of work it takes to make plastic water bottles are much more complicated than just using a reusable water bottle and using the tap water.

**Url’s for sources:**1) http://www.banthebottle.net/articles/5-ways-you-can-help-reduce-plastic-bottle-waste/
2) http://sustainablebusinessforum.com/garrett-carney/58166/buy-grab-drink-trash-environmental-implications-bottled-water
3) http://www.sdcoastkeeper.org/learn/fishable/marine-debris/types-of-beach-pollution.html#Plastic
4) http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/bottled/bottled-water-bad-for-people-and-the-environment/
5)http://www.onlineeducation.net/bottled\_water
6) http://www.banthebottle.net/bottled-water-facts/
7) http://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/loribennear/2014/04/01/ban-the-bottle/

**Specific Facts On Issue:
-** “On average, the United States alone purchases and consumes over 50 billion plastic bottles per year. If that statistic isn’t bad enough, only 40% of those 50 billion plastic bottles are recycled or put to better use. This means that 3 out of 5 plastic bottles purchased in the United States are thrown away” (1).

- “Currently the Pacific Ocean has a garbage patch estimated to be two times larger than Texas. The patch is made up of everything under the sun and 90 percent of it is plastic” (2).

- “Plastic foam debris does not biodegrade, but breaks into very small pieces that birds and marine wildlife mistake for food” (3).

- “Rather than being recycled, about 75 percent of the empty plastic bottles end up in our landfills, lakes, streams and oceans, where they may never fully decompose” (4).

- “It actually takes 17 million barrels of oil to produce bottled water which is enough oil to fuel 1 million cars for a whole year. Oil isn’t the only necessary resource. Luckily tap water is very cheap because it takes about 3 times the amount of tap water to produce and fill 1 bottle of bottled water”(5).

- “One water pitcher filter can effectively replace as much as 300 standard 16.9-ounce bottles”(6).

- “Bisphenol A (BPA) is an industrial chemical in plastics. When you ingest BPA, it acts as an estrogen and endocrine-disruptor making BPA a dangerous chemical if over-consumed.  You would most likely not be able to consume enough BPA from your own plastic water bottle to cause harm. However, as plastic water bottles accumulate as garbage, BPA can leach into the natural water supply.” (2).

- “Some bottled water companies say their water is purified and from “natural springs.” They want you to believe drinking bottled water is healthier for you and more natural. The truth is, most bottled water actually comes straight from the tap” (2).

- “Colleges and universities all over the country are recognizing this and as of 2012, [more than 90 schools](http://www.mnn.com/money/sustainable-business-practices/blogs/college-campuses-ban-bottled-water) either banned or restricted the sale of plastic water bottles on campus” (7).

- “The Natural Resources Defense Council found that [25 percent or more](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qbw.asp) of bottled water is really just tap water. Tap water itself costs only about 0.9 cents per gallon, meaning that when we buy bottled water, we are paying [560 times](http://www.businessinsider.com/facts-bottled-water-industry-2011-10?op=1) what that amount of water is worth” (7).

**Possible Solution:**Concord, Massachusetts- The sale of drinking water bylaw (1st,2nd, and 3rd offenses)