

Environmental Problems

Hello, my name is Aixa. I worked as an Accounts Assistant in the past, but now, and due to the current circumstances, I am unemployed, and I really need to pass this exam to get a new job. The topic that I've been given today is Environmental problems.

And I am going to start this speech talking about the main environmental problems in our world. Because our environment is constantly changing and as well as the rest of the world, Spain is suffering a massive influx of natural disasters, warming and cooling periods, different types of weather patterns and much more, and people need to be aware of the types of environmental problems that our planet is facing, because we are really vulnerable to disasters, now and in the future.

For example, Global Warming, GW has become an undisputed fact, and we are definitely part of the problem. However, GW is not the only environmental problem that we should be concerned about. We are facing a lot of environmental problems. Some of them are small and only affect a few ecosystems, but others are really important. For instance, pollution.

There is a lot of pollution in the world, caused by the number of cars, industries and factories which are releasing a lot of gases and toxins like CO₂. And scientists have different points of view about this. But one thing is clear, we have to reduce our carbon footprint.

But in my opinion, we are barely scratching the surface, because we can also find other environmental problems like: overpopulation, waste disposal, climate change, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, among others.

And now, I am going to continue talking about Spain, because we have our own environmental problems as well. For example, air pollution which as I said before, is caused by cars and factories, which release gases and toxins into the atmosphere, and it is responsible for at least 7,000 deaths every year.

Another problem in Spain is deforestation, caused by the farming activities, urban sprawl, among others.

And the last one is water pollution which is produced by putting waste in rivers, lakes, oceans and so on.

And now I'd like to talk a little about Madrid. Because reducing the rampant pollution and waste disposal are two of the most important environmental problems identified.

To reduce the pollution, Madrid City Hall took a historic decision. Depending on the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the air, they prohibit the entry of vehicles in the city center with license plates ending in an odd or even number, that depends on the day. Other important decisions are: speed limits on access routes into the city and a ban on parking in downtown.

And what about the waste disposal, well, to solve this problem, Madrid set up several places like Colmenar Viejo, Alcalá de Henares, Pinto or Valdemingómez, but even so, Madrid has a lot of problems due to urban sprawl, because there are a lot of new cities on the outskirts of Madrid and too much trash to deal with.

And finally, I am going to conclude making a controversial question, what can we do to help the environment?

Well, over the past 10 years, Spain has created new laws and departments to protect the environment, even, to reduce the impact of the transport, tourism, agriculture, construction sectors and so on. And although Spain has got a bit behind with its responsibilities, nowadays it's getting over it. Besides, there are also several groups around Spain which put pressure on governments to protect the environment.

In my opinion, people are aware of recycling. Everyday there are more and more people who want to give the best of themselves, who are more interested in where, what, when and how can recycle, even children receive a lot of information at school about recycling from a young age.