

Could plastic bags be so bad that people are willing to ban them? People around the world want to ban plastic bags because of it being litter but also harder to recycle. Other people feel like it's not okay to ban plastic bags since it also affects the economy. In this argument plastic bags shouldn't be banned because the economy can be damaged and not all plastic bags are being litter.

Plastic bags are used in multiple ways. "During a one-year period, before and after the ban, the majority of stores surveyed in areas with a ban reported an overall average sales decline of nearly 6%. While the majority of respondents surveyed in areas without a ban reported an overall average sales growth of 9%." (Text 4 lines 4-7) In places with a ban people stopped shopping at, people without a ban more people went to, this damaged the economy in the places with the ban but also some people also lost their jobs as well. "The study found plastic shopping bags represented less than 3% of marine litter on European beaches..." (Text 3 lines 19 and 20.) Not all litter in the ocean is just the plastic bags. The litter in the ocean is more than a plastic bag meaning people put other things in the ocean that might end up hurting the marine animals. Therefore plastic bags shouldn't be banned.

Plastic bags hurt the environment. "Even when citizens try to manage their plastic bag disposal wind plays a role in carrying them away as litter. This litter is not biodegradable and thus where it lands it tends to stay for a long period

of time" (Text 2 lines 10-13). Plastic bags will be litter for a time that no one will know will end. This makes it harder on the environment to live on if there are biodegradables around to mess it up, which will kill home of animals or just kill animals.

Plastic bags have it's positive and negative effects on the environment and the economy but it shouldn't be banned when humans and other elements help make this object so dangerous to the world.

**Anchor Level 3-A**

The essay introduces a reasonable claim, as directed by the task (*In this arrgeument plastic bags shouldn't be baned because the economy can be dammage and not all plastic bags are being litter*). The essay demonstrates some analysis of the texts (*In places with a ban people stopped shopping ... This damnage the economy and Not all litter in the ocean is just the plastic bags*), but insufficiently distinguishes the claim from alternate or opposing claims (*Plastic bags hurt the envierment*). The essay presents ideas briefly, making use of some specific and relevant evidence to support analysis (*"Durning a one year period ... the majority of stores surveyed in areas with a ban reperted an overall average sales decline of nearly 6% and "The study found plastic shopping bags represented less than 3% of marine litter on European beaches,..."*). The essay demonstrates proper citation of sources to avoid plagiarism when dealing with direct quotes and paraphrased material [(Text 4 lines 4-7) and (Text 3 lines 19 and 20)]. The essay exhibits some organization of ideas and information to create a mostly coherent essay, first introducing the issue (*Could plastic bags be so bad that people are willing to ban them?*) and the claim (*plastic bags shouldn't be baned*), then following with a paragraph that supports the claim (*Therefor plastic bags shouldnt be banned*), a paragraph addressing a counterclaim (*This makes it harder on the enviorment to live on*) and concluding with a summation. The essay establishes but fails to maintain a formal style, using primarily basic language and structure (*Other people feel like it's not okay to ban plastic bags since it also effects the economy and there are biodegradables around to mess it up*). The essay demonstrates emerging control of conventions, exhibiting occasional errors (*bags ... it; litter but also harder; arrgeument; can be dammage; Durning; bag meaning; Therefor plastic bags; envierment; up. Which; negivative; dangerous*) that hinder comprehension.

Over the last ten decade the ozone layer got destroyed. ~~over~~ One of the many reasons is there is a lot of pollution from landfill. Of the biggest things in the landfill is plastic bags. We must ban plastic shopping bags. It should be unlawful for any store to give out plastic bags.

As we know these bags don't always land up in the garbage. A lot of bags get shredded up into sewer drains which clogs drains. After it ~~travels~~ goes through the drains it flows into the sea or ocean. As stated in Texts two "These bags are very dangerous for sea life especially those of the mammal variety. The mammals eat the bags and die". How can we let this happen? It's killing <sup>innocent</sup> ~~the~~ mammals.

Another big problem is the streets are full of garbage. While plastic bags ~~are~~ is not the main issue of unsanitary cities ~~sanitary~~, but it definitely is a big problem. As Text one explains "They <sup>bags</sup> can be seen fluttering from trees, floating in that much polluted patch of plastic detritus in the middle of the ocean." They obviously don't just land up there. Someone puts there. If we ban these bags we would have a much cleaner environment.

Even if you say ~~plastic~~<sup>paper</sup> bags ~~are also getting banned~~ are also getting baned, so what will we use? The solution is simple ~~as stated in text four~~ as stated in text four reusable shopping bags can be made from fabric, woven synthetic fibers, or even polypropylene! Lets be honest how hard is it to reuse a bag; and for the store owners they can save thousands of dollars on bags.

The Pros. easily win the cons. as can be seen above. so why should we have ~~plastic~~ bags over paper bags.

## Anchor Level 3-B

The essay introduces a reasonable claim, as directed by the task (*We must ban plastic shopping bags*). The essay demonstrates some analysis of the texts (*A lot of bags gets shredded up into sewer drains, which clogs drains* and *If we ban these bags we would have a much cleaner environment*), but insufficiently distinguishes the claim from alternate or opposing claims (*Even if you say paper bags are also getting baned, so what will we use?* and *how hard is it to reuse a bag*). The essay presents ideas briefly, making use of some specific and relevant evidence to support analysis (*“These bags are very dangerous for sea life especially those of the mammal variety and “They [bags] can be seen fluttering from trees, floating in that much publicized patch of plastic detritus in the middle of the ocean”*). The essay demonstrates inconsistent citation of sources to avoid plagiarism when dealing with direct quotes and paraphrased material, identifying only the text (*As stated in Texts two and as stated in text Four*) but not providing the line numbers. The essay exhibits some organization of ideas and information to create a mostly coherent essay, with an opening paragraph that introduces the claim, two paragraphs that support the claim and address a counterclaim, and a brief conclusion that promotes *paper bags*. The essay establishes but fails to maintain a formal style, using primarily basic language and structure (*Of the biggest things in the landfill is plastic bags* and *The Pros easily win the cons*). The essay demonstrates emerging control of conventions, exhibiting occasional errors (*ten decade, know these, drains it, bags is, citys, defennitly, obvisly, bags we, environment, Lets be Honest*) that hinder comprehension.

Evidently in the world we have an occurring topic that is used in every day lives and that is plastic bags should they be banned, Paper or plastic. I think we should ban plastic bags they don't break and dissolve in to the earth it stays for long periods of time. They even can be seen everywhere causing pollution getting stuck in pipes of water drains when it rains recycling bags that are plastic don't do much.

I think plastic bags should be banned because on line 5 text 1 "Bags don't dive into the ocean. ~~Jump~~ into the sewers or take flight without help. We are the real problem with proper recycling, reuse or disposal benefits can outweigh risks. ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~with~~ ~~this~~ plastic bags are used in supermarkets in malls shopping food, clothes, accessories, and some throw it in the garbage bins that are provided on the streets. But some don't follow this rule and just leave it outside which is then carried by the wind which can travel all the way to the ocean harming wild life or even the wood where animals are located.

on text 2 line 31-35 "It has been estimated that one bag has the potential to unintentionally kill one animal per every 3 months

due to digestion. Line 23 text 1) Finding thier way  
into the mouths and intestinal tracts of sea animals  
However some might disagree that we should  
because on text 4 Line 51 " bag bans are ~~the~~  
more about enviornmental image then enviornmental  
benefit although that might be true. But just because  
its a small threat now doesnt mean it cant potentially  
pose a threat the future to prevent that i think  
its better to fix the problem now by bannig  
plastic bags and use paper or biodegradable  
bags.

Anchor Level 3-C

The essay introduces a reasonable claim, as directed by the task (*I think we should ban plastic bags they dont break and dissolve in to the earth it stays for long periods of time*). The essay demonstrates some analysis of the texts (*But some dont follow this rule and just leave it outside which is then carried by the wind which can travel all the way to the ocean harming wild life or even the wood where animals are located*), but insufficiently distinguishes the claim from alternate or opposing claims (*However Some might disagree that we should and i think its better to fix the problem now by bannig plastic bags*). The essay presents ideas briefly, making use of some specific and relevant evidence to support analysis (*"Bags dont dive into the ocean. Jump into the sewers or take Flight without help and It has been estimated that one bag has the potential to untintently kill one animal per every 3 months due to digestion*). The essay demonstrates inconsistent citation of sources to avoid plagiarism when dealing with direct quotes and paraphrased material, at times providing inexact information (*line 5 text 1 should be "lines 4-6 text 1" and text 4 Line 51 should be "text 3 Line 51"*). The essay exhibits some organization of ideas and information to create a mostly coherent essay by introducing a claim that calls for the banning of plastic bags, followed by a paragraph that is meant to support the claim but sometimes takes the opposite course (*"...with proper recycling, reuse or disposbal benefits can outweigh risks"*) and is in some places incoherent, then a paragraph consisting of quoted material about the danger plastic bags pose to animals, and a concluding paragraph that addresses a counterclaim. The essay establishes but fails to maintain a formal style, using primarily basic language and structure (*Eviendety in the world we have an occuring topic that is used in every day lifes and that is plastic bags should they be banned paper or plastic*). The essay demonstrates a lack of control of conventions (*Eviendety, bags should, dont, dissolve, earth is, rains recycling, disposbal, accecories, untintently, 51", enviolmental, i think, bannig, biodigrabble*), exhibiting frequent errors that make comprehension difficult.

People said they plastic bags should be banded because they be in the ocean. But I don't think they should be band because if people don't throw them out of windows or out on the ground then they won't be in the ocean. It's ~~just~~ <sup>some</sup> people need to start cleaning up after they selfs when they throw them out ~~where~~ (text 4, ~~page~~ 41)

"Some people reports state that plastic bags are responsible for less than 1% of all litter."

So when ~~people~~ <sup>they</sup> band ~~plastic~~ plastic bags what are people going to use what they have to ~~carry~~ <sup>take</sup> their groceries out to the car? I would like for plastic bags stay in stores because it's more use for. Lots of older people like them because some of them reuse them.

(text 3, ~~line~~ <sup>line</sup> 47) says "Weighing the cost and benefits makes it clear that banding plastic bags yields benefits at a very high cost." People say that they should band plastic bags because they cost a lot of money. But I think by us paying taxes on groceries at the store for our food should pay for the plastic bags that stores have at the ~~store~~ stores. I think if they want the plastic bags should be an over the place they should have plastic bags to where people should recycle them for 5 cents a bag so people could get money and for the world

Should stay clean as it should. (text 3, lines 14-15)  
says "...there are currently no pushed studies about how many marine mammals die because of marine debris". Some people don't think before they throw things on the ground because they're so use/growing up of seeing older people or the people around them throw plastic bags/trash out so it's like a habit because they caught on to what they see and hear. I don't think the bags should be banded because of what people are doing to them, if people clean up after them self then maybe plastic bags wouldn't be banded.

Anchor Level 2-A

The essay introduces a claim (*I don't think they should be band because if people don't throw them out of windows or out on the ground then they won't be in the ocean*). The essay demonstrates confused or unclear analysis of the texts (*So when they band plastic bags what are people going to use when they have to take their groceries out to the car? and Some people don't think before they throw things on the ground ... so it's like a habit*), insufficiently distinguishing the claim from alternate or opposing claims (*People say that they should band plastic bags because they cost a lot of money*). The essay presents ideas inconsistently and inaccurately, in an attempt to support analysis (*"Some people reports state they plastic bags are responsible for less than 1% of all litter"* and *"Weighing the cost and benefits makes it clear that banding plastic bags yields benefits at a very high cost"*), making use of some evidence that may be irrelevant. The essay demonstrates inconsistent citation of sources to avoid plagiarism when dealing with direct quotes and paraphrased material [(text 4, paragraph 41) and (text 3, line 47)] while also copying some text inaccurately. The essay exhibits inconsistent organization of ideas and information, consisting of a single paragraph starting with a claim opposing a ban on plastic bags to keep them out of the ocean, followed by comments on litter (*It's just people need to start cleaning up after them selfs when they throw them out*), then comments on ways to pay for plastic bags (*people should recycle them for 5 cents a bag*), concluding with the idea of litter again (*if people clean up after them self then maybe plastic bags wouldn't be banded*), failing to create a coherent essay. The essay lacks a formal style, using some language that is inappropriate or imprecise (*if they want the plastic bags should be an over the place and because they so use/growing up of seeing*). The essay demonstrates a lack of control of conventions, exhibiting frequent errors (*banded, band, dont, them selfs, less then, because its more, grosries, out so, habbit*) that make comprehension difficult.



Should plastic bags be banned?

plastic bags may be recyclable, but some are not recyclable, ~~by~~ the material are them made, It is a problem, it has to be burned ~~about~~ do that has a negative effect in the environmental. <sup>is</sup> contaminated, the air and water, even the atmosphere. Even the smoke that the burning plastic bags disperse affect the people make them sick.

In the text "I" talks about if banning plastic bag should help the environment, well on my opinion it will decrease a certain percentage of burning plastic bags, but still some others materials will keeping burning. "If the plastic bags is reused to line your garbage can, a cotton bag would have to be used ~~ore~~ 300 times to have a lower global warming potential" text I, line 29. According to the quote ~~not~~ all the plastic bags are made of plastic some are made of tamine and are not recyclable. So the plastic bags not all recyclable or renewable and we have to find a way to do not ~~to~~ throw them away and contaminated the environment.

## Anchor Level 2–B

The essay introduces a claim (*plastic bags may be recyclable, but some are not ... It is a problem ... its contaminated, the air and water, even the atmosphere*). The essay demonstrates confused and unclear analysis of the texts (*it will decrease a certain percentage of burning plastic bags, but still some others materials will keeping burning and According to the quote not all the plastic bags are made of plastic some are made of tamine and are not recyclable*), failing to distinguish the claim from alternate or opposing claims. The essay presents ideas inconsistently and inaccurately, in an attempt to support analysis (*Even the smoke that the burning plastic bags disperse affect the peopple make them sick. In the text “1” talks about if banning plastic bag should help the environment and “If the plastic bags is reused ... a cotton bag would have to be used over 300 times to have a lower global warming potential” ... So the plastic bags not all recyclable or renewable*). The essay demonstrates little use of citations to avoid plagiarism when dealing with direct quotes and paraphrased material from Text 1 that fails to correctly identify line numbers (*text “1” talks and text 1, line 29*) and makes references to *burning* without acknowledging that this comes from Text 2. The essay exhibits inconsistent organization of ideas and information, failing to create a coherent essay. The essay is a single paragraph that moves from stating that plastic bags may or may not be recyclable, to the negative effects of burning plastic, to the impact of plastic as opposed to cotton reuse, then returns to a comment about recycling, and concludes with a confused return to the claim (*So the plastic bags not all recyclable or renewable and we have to find a way to do not throw them away and contaminated the environment*). The essay lacks a formal style, using some language that is imprecise (*by the material are them made, effect in the invironmental, on my opinion*). The essay demonstrates a lack of control of conventions, exhibiting frequent errors (*banned? plastic; problem, it; contaminated; peopple; environment, well; others materials; will keeping burning; plastic some*) that make comprehension difficult.

Plastic bag should not be banned how are they gonna carry the stuff they get. And it will be managed more harder.

They should keep plastic to stop dropping or losing them. One detail is "reports state that plastic bags are responsible for less than 1% of all litter." This proves bag don't get throw on the floor or get lost. And how bags is in peoples every day doing as why would you ban it.

They should not ban bags cause peoples might need it for more than 1 item or other uses. Bag don't get wasted they can use again.

In conclusion, bag should stay in the world cause it helps out our community and environment in different ways.

## Anchor Level 2–C

The essay introduces a claim (*Plastic bag should not be banned*). The essay demonstrates a confused and unclear analysis of the texts (*This proves bag don't get throw on the floor or get lost. And how bags is in peoples every day doings*), failing to distinguish the claim from alternate or opposing claims. The essay presents little evidence from one text that is not identified (*“reports state that plastic bags are responsible for less than 1% of all litter”*). The essay does not make use of citations. The essay exhibits inconsistent organization of ideas and information, failing to create a coherent essay. The essay consists of four brief paragraphs, opening with a negative claim based on superficial reasons, followed by two body paragraphs consisting of loosely connected sentences about plastic bag littering and reuse, and a concluding paragraph that offers a vague affirmation of the claim (*In conclusion, bag should stay in the world cause it helps out our community and environment in different ways*). The essay lacks a formal style, using some language that is inappropriate and imprecise (*gonna carry the stuff, losing* for “losing”, *cause* for “because”, *Bag don't get waisted they can use again*). The essay demonstrates a lack of control of conventions, exhibiting frequent errors (*banned how; get. And; more harder; should; bag don't; get throw on; bags is; peoples; why would you ban it.; migt; waisted; conclusion; bag should; community; environment; different*) that make comprehension difficult.

Plastic bags should not  
be banned because shopping bags  
are used for groceries. If we  
didn't have plastic bags how  
would we carry our groceries.

**Anchor Level 1-A**

The essay introduces a claim (*Plastic bags should not be banned because shopping bags are used for groceries*). The essay does not demonstrate any analysis of the texts. The essay presents no evidence from the texts and does not make use of citations. The essay is minimal, making assessment of coherence, organization, and style unreliable. The essay is minimal, making assessment of conventions unreliable.

I couldn't understand the paragraphs for myself it was kind hard. The fact that it asked us "Should Cities Ban Plastic Bags"? I really couldn't understand the paragraph. I only understood the Effects of Plastic Bags on Environment because the bag range is 1.5 million to 3 million depending on location, this equals a lot of ecosystem sustaining lives lost. The environmental balance of the waterways is being thrown off by the rate of plastic bags finding their way into the mouths and intestinal tracts of sea mammals. Most municipalities either burn them or send them off to the landfill after sorting. This is because it can be expensive to recycle this type of plastic. Reusable plastic bags are often made of laminated plastics and are not recyclable.

Anchor Level 1-B

The essay does not introduce a claim or demonstrate analysis of the texts. The essay presents evidence from Text 1 and Text 2 with no attempt to use it to support any analysis. The essay exhibits little organization of ideas and information, opening with some personal commentary, which is followed by a series of details copied from Texts 1 and 2. The essay uses language that is mostly copied directly from the task and texts. The original student writing is minimal, making assessment of conventions unreliable.

Part 2 – Practice Paper – A

Plastic shopping bags have been the topic of heated debates within the United States and Europe. Many opinions are out there on how to solve the issue of pollution or if there even is a problem to begin with. ~~Such~~ Such issues are not easily answered, but for the majority of these countries struggling with plastic bags the cons outweigh the pros of getting rid of them ~~completely~~ completely.

Many opinions disagree with this assertion by backing up the importance of the danger of plastic bag pollution and how they are non-biodegradable (Text 1, line 8). Another argument against my claim is that very little of plastic bags being recycled actually end up being recycled. In fact, only 1% of all recycled bags actually end up recycled (Text 2, line 45). All these negatives, however true they may be, do not outweigh the cons of getting rid of plastic bags.

First and foremost plastic bags are simply not as much of an environmental concern as other pollutants may be, making up only 3% of all litter in <sup>European Beaches</sup> ~~the world~~ to give an example (Text 3, line 20.)

There are also many bad economic outcomes foreseen if plastic bags were to be banned. Decline of sales and employment at places with banned bags would increase significantly and many of them would be likely to go out of business (Text 4, line 8-13). Other problems with throwing out the idea of plastic bags is what would replace them. Cotton or other fabric reusable bags are much greater detriments to the environment than their plastic brothers due to the high use of pesticides to grow the crops needed to produce the fabric (Text 3, line 33-34)

Although there are some minor pros of getting rid of plastic bags, their lack of danger as a pollutant, hard impact as cheap and easy goods and more environmentally beneficial creation was overall better.

In recent times, there has been a growing controversy over ~~the~~ the use of plastic bags. Should plastic bags continue to be used, or should they be banned? For many, it may seem like getting rid of these would be great for the world and the environment. However, it appears that placing bans on plastic bags only negatively impacts the economy and does not pose a significant benefit to the world's ecosystem.

It has been observed that banning plastic bags has immensely affected the economy. Within one year of placing a ban on plastic bags, ~~stores with the~~ stores in areas with the ban experienced a 6% decline of sales and a 10% reduction in employment (Text 4). <sup>lines 4-5 and 8</sup> The opposite effect happened in areas outside the ban. These stores reported a 9% growth in sales and a slight increase in employment ~~(Text 4)~~ (Text 4 line 5-7 and 9). By banning the use of plastic bags, stores are being hurt economically. It also affects individuals as the ban resulted in a lack of available jobs in a time where more jobs are needed. The ban of plastic bags will only ~~disrupt~~ disrupt the flow of the economy, making things more difficult for the average consumer.

The banning of plastic bags will also ~~provide~~ provide little benefit for the environment. The main reason for this is there are so many other factors harming the environment that cause more of an impact than plastic bags do. In fact, plastic bags only account for ~~less than~~ "less than 3% of marine litter on European beaches." (Text 3 line 19-20). ~~These~~ These littered shopping bags, therefore, have a very insignificant role in harming marine life. There are things such as "discarded fishing gear" that pose a greater threat to marine animals (Text 3 line 15-16). Since there are greater threats and plastic bags play so small a role in the environment, the world's focus should not be placed on banning plastic bags but rather on ~~larger issues~~. Solving larger issues.

However, some people say that plastic bags should be banned so they can be replaced with reusable bags. They say plastic bags will be harmful



for us and the environment due to the fact that they are not biodegradable (Text 1 line 8). In reality, plastic bags take up little space in landfills ~~and take up less than 1%~~. Since they are so compressible (Text 1 line 17),<sup>18</sup> therefore, it is not much of a concern that they are non-biodegradable. ~~Plastic bags also account for less than 1% of litter (Text 1 lines 17-19). There are one many more things that have a more major impact on the environment and take up more space in landfills.~~ The concern for plastic bags in these aspects has been grossly exaggerated. As for reusable bags, they would have to be used hundreds of times to equal the impact of one plastic bag. A paper bag would have to be used 4 times and a cotton bag would have to be used 173 times to make any difference (Text 3 line 32-33). This is because the way these bags are produced causes more of a negative impact on the environment than plastic bags do. Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are all used in the process of growing the cotton to make these bags (Text 3 line 34). In the end, it is more worthwhile to stick with plastic bags.

Despite ~~the~~ the major concerns held by many, banning plastic bags is not worth the effort. It will not greatly benefit the environment. It will only damage the economy and employment. If a difference really wants to be made in the world, we should focus on bigger issues ~~and not plastic bags~~. Still, every small effort counts. If we continue to use plastic bags, be mindful and don't litter.

Should plastic bags be banned? Yes, it should.

"They can be seen fluttering from trees, floating in that much publicized patch of plastic detritus in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and in clogging sewers in parts of Asia"

My point of view The they say it stop the Pacific Ocean flow and its mess the sewers " One of the estimated 300 million plastic bag end up in the Atlantic Ocean alone." They are pollution the water. For preventing all this, we shouldn't use plastic bags.

"Some reports state that plastic bags are responsible for less than 1% of all litter. They have not. Text 3 says "there are no published studies about how many marine mammals die." So if its not published we don't know how many die. it could be alot. And it can be "expensive to recycle this type of plastic." I believe that plastic bags hurts the environment in different ways We need to stop using them so much.

How many times have you seen or used a plastic shopping bag? Have you caught sight of one caught up in some tree limbs, or floating upon a body of water that you are wading or dangling your feet in, or just drifting by your head as it flows along with the breeze? How many were used to carry your groceries home and, more importantly, how many of these were then tossed out? These are all such common occurrences that we take them for granted and, all too often, do not consider the damaging impact these bags are having upon our environment. When such time and thought are taken, it is clear to see the importance of supporting the recent drive to ban plastic grocery bags.

One argument that opponents of this ban often present is that plastic bags can be recycled at a facility or reused individually for multiple purposes like "lining garbage bins... or for picking up after pets" (Text 1, lines 37-38). While this may sound like a reasonable claim, the proposed rationale is faulty. In regard to recycling these bags, it has been noted that "while it's a noble thought to place plastic bags in a recycling bin every week, studies have proven that there are very few plants that actually recycle them. Most municipalities either burn them or send them off to the landfill" (Text 2, lines 38-40). Why this happens is because the reality is that recycling is an expensive and difficult process. Unknown to many is that "plastic bag recycling requires a different type of infrastructure than plastic bottles and containers" and "has the potential to clog machines at the recycling facilities" (Text 4, lines 49-51). Clogged machines obviously

can lead to their breakdown which, in turn, leads to unwanted repairs or replacement expenditures. In regard to the concept of use and reuse, while it is true these bags can be used for multiple purposes, there must come a time when their usefulness comes to an end. What happens then? Where do they go? Eventually, they will end up in the trash, either to be burned or buried in a landfill where they will either end up ~~either~~ emitting "toxic gases that harm the atmosphere" or held "indefinitely as part of the plastic waste problem" that exists globally (Text 2, lines 8-10). As a result of these details, it is clear to see that recycling plastic bags is simply not an option. In fact, it can lead to further, more detrimental, problems impacting both business costs and individual health.

The more serious issue that stems from the above is the fact that "only 5.2% of plastic bags are recycled" (Text 4, lines 47-48). This means that 94.8% of them are not. The sad reality is that many of these are the ones you see dangling from tree limbs, floating upon the water, or drifting by in the breeze. While the obvious negative impact of this is the unsightly litter that amasses, the real danger is evident in the impact these bags have upon the environment. These bags drifting by are not only not biodegradable, but they also eventually turn

to shreds which may pass through storm drains leading to waterways. This, along with the fact that "an estimated 300 million plastic bags end up in the Atlantic Ocean alone," leads to the deaths of a variety of marine life that mistakenly digests them as food (Text 2, lines 17-19). If these bags aren't ending up in the waterways, then they may be causing just as much harm in the woodlands. There are some equally startling facts supporting this reality. According to Text 2, "It has been estimated that one bag has the potential to unintentionally kill one animal per every three months due to unintentional digestion or inhalation" and with "15 million to 3 million" littered bags, "depending on location," one can only imagine the overall impact this has on wildlife and the ecosystem (Text 2, lines 34-37). It is hard to ignore these facts and the truths they reveal. Millions of plastic bags are not being recycled and, instead, are killing off our marine and woodland wildlife. This, in turn, upsets the ecosystem which will eventually negatively impact human existence.

In light of all these statistics, it is evident that the banning of plastic bags should be a priority. We, as a society, need to admit our well-intentioned practice of recycling them is no longer a viable option and that our environment and the living creatures we co-exist with must be our prime concern.

Though plastic shopping bags are very common they can also be very harmful. Many of us use plastic bags on the daily, but what happens when we're finished with the bag?

The bag gets thrown away and hurts animals in the ocean. For this reason plastic shopping bags should be banned.

In text 1 line 8 it states that plastic bags are non-biodegradable. Since it is harder for these bags to be broken down it gets put just the way it is into the ocean. After it's been in the ocean for such a long period of time many mammals may mistake it for a meal. (Text 2 lines 20-21)

Deaths from plastic bags have been increasing each year. This problem hasn't been getting better so therefore they should be banned. In line 27 and 28 of text 2 states that "for an average plastic bag it takes ~~about~~ "literally hundreds of years". This clearly isn't good for earth so it really want be good for these animals.

Plastic bags shouldn't be used but in replace of them there should be the reusable shopping bags. These bags would be beneficial because after the have been used once they

don't need to be thrown away. Easily they can be used over and over again.

Though there's not much proof banning plastic bags will be better, there's a lot of proof towards its risk factors (Text 3 line 9). It may actually be hurting many companies. They would be losing money because of the production it takes to make these plastic bags

**Practice Paper A – Score Level 4**

Holistically, this essay best fits the criteria for Level 4.

**Practice Paper B – Score Level 5**

Holistically, this essay best fits the criteria for Level 5.

**Practice Paper C – Score Level 2**

Holistically, this essay best fits the criteria for Level 2.

**Practice Paper D – Score Level 6**

Holistically, this essay best fits the criteria for Level 6.

**Practice Paper E – Score Level 3**

Holistically, this essay best fits the criteria for Level 3.