



LESSON 1.5

DEVELOPING A POSITION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

GRADE LEVEL	TIME
	
9-12	MULTIPLE CLASS PERIODS

Objective:

In this lesson, students will use the knowledge gained from the previous activities and/or independent research to develop a personal position on plastic pollution in their lives and communities. They will support this position with factual information from credible sources, write a concise position statement, and present it to their class.

Instructions:

1. Have students watch Dr. Sherri Mason’s TEDTalk on plastic pollution.
2. Have students find 2-3 additional sources of information on plastic pollution, using the [PBS.org Research Guide](#) as needed.
3. Review Position Statement Guide Sheet with students.
4. Have students each write a short position statement of at least 100 words (i.e., 7 sentences or 1 paragraph).

***if time and technology allow:**

5. Student position statements can be used as the basis for a class TEDTalk, like those presented by Dr. Sherri Mason. Consider partnering with a teacher from another subject area, such as Language Arts or Reading, for this step.
6. Record students reading their position statements on camera.
7. Have students assist with creating video montages of their position statements for class TEDTalk video.



Materials:

- TEDTalk: [Beads of Destruction](#)
- [PBS.org Research Guide: Assessing Sources](#)
- Position Statement Guide Sheet



Notes:

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Learning Standards:

ELA:
W1, W6, WHST1, WHST7

SCI:
HS-ETS1-1, HS-ESS3-4

SS:
8.8.c, 10.9.a, 10.9.b, S5-KI #4

GLLP: 6, 7, 8



Photo credit Erica Cirino

Plastic Pollution and You

POSITION STATEMENT GUIDE SHEET

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Position Statement: A position statement is a stance you have on a topic. It describes one side of an arguable viewpoint.

How to write a position statement	
<p>State your position on a topic</p> <p>Choose a topic with two or more arguable viewpoints</p>	<p>Example: Is plastic pollution an issue in your life and your community? (how/why?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.
<p>Justify your position</p>	<p>Create a list of reasons for your position:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>Research and cite credible sources</p>	<p>Research sources that support and oppose your position. Consider opposing viewpoints. Summarize and record sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>Draft your position statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a sentence that summarizes your position in a clear and concise manner. • Write additional sentences that provide the supporting evidence for your position. • Read your position statement to a friend or classmate.
<p>Revise your position statement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to questions about your position or sources. • Re-write your statement to address questions and opposing arguments. • Try to respond to at least two opposing arguments in your final statement.

