



What kind of footprint do YOU leave on the planet?

- Do you drink bottled water?
- Do you take long showers?
- Do you drive unnecessarily short distances when you could walk?
- Do you drive to school alone?

Think about the things you do on a daily basis that has a direct effect on the health of our Earth. As we live in our environment, it is easy to forget that each and every thing we do, every product we purchase, every unit of energy we consume, every piece of garbage we throw out each day, **EVERYTHING WE DO** has some sort of effect on the environment, positive or negative. The human species as a whole has done a pretty sad job of protecting the environment in which it lives. Everyone in our class (including me) does things that leave the planet “worse for our wear”. Many of these things, we could do differently with no real cost or hassle to ourselves, if we just thought about them and made a decision to walk more lightly on the planet.

First, go to: <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/> to see what kind of impact you make on the environment you live in. You might be surprised!

Then identify **five actions**, habits, behaviors, etc. in which you participate, that has some level of negative impact on the environment.

Once you have them identified, **write a very short paragraph** that describes the particular behavior and explain the impact that it has on the planet. **Support your argument with a statistic or two that explains why this issue should be addressed. Remember to cite your sources when digging around for statistics.** Do not rely on Wikipedia alone!

For these five actions/habits/behaviors, provide five (one for each) pieces of evidence that these behaviors have a direct negative impact on the Earth. How can you do this?

1. Photographs or video of you doing these things —be sure you have a written description to go along with the photo documentation.
2. A written description of the behavior accompanied by written documentation from a parent or guardian or other witness describing that you are engaging in the behavior described.

Then, choose **three of the habits** from your list that you are willing to change in order to tread a little more lightly on the Earth. You must modify your behavior to correct for this problem and find some way to document that you have actually taken this action. Describe how this change in your habits will help you leave a little smaller carbon footprint on the Earth.

Please be thoughtful and creative. Also, please be completely honest. Turn in your assignment paperless (another way to help the environment – but not one of your five).