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English  
Gandhi Essay

Gandhi was enlightened and dedicated his life to sharing his wisdom with the world. He addressed some ecological concerns before many scientists. His approach to fixing these problems was radical, but insightful.

The quote “Earth provides enough to satisfy every person’s needs, but not every person’s wants” has a very deep and thoughtful meaning that can only be grasped once we understand some of Gandhi’s core beliefs. It shows us to be grateful for what we have in our lives instead of constantly searching for more. Gandhi believed that people should embrace simplistic lifestyles in order to keep a healthy, balanced planet. He knew that mass production was destroying nature; and we must be unselfish with Earth’s resources. He wanted sustainable development rather than large-scale industrialization. He cared deeply about the sacredness of all life, believing that everyone is equally responsible for the environment and uniting to do our part in preserving it (Kluwer 1-5). Two of his other core beliefs were Satyagraha; the force of truth and Ahimsa; nonviolence. He thought that the two were intertwined and reinforced each other. He saw truth as the highest law and nonviolence as the highest duty. He thought that they must be used together to create simplicity and cooperation in solving the ecological crisis (A.S. 1-2). Gandhi’s quote and beliefs show us how embracing his values can preserve nature without compromising quality of life (Kluwer 2).

Climate change has become a crisis that we must address. Greta Thunberg is an inspiring young woman who has embraced Gandhi’s nonviolent action. She seeks a higher cause and has chosen to make her life more difficult by standing up for her beliefs. She has influenced thousands of people across the globe by organizing school strikes and making countless speeches (Oberger). She has truly shown the meaning of Gandhi’s quote in her every action. I look up to Thunberg and strive to act similarly to her and Gandhi. As an environmentally-conscious person,

I have a drive to make a difference. I have always been passionate about saving nature's ecosystems and have attended multiple climate-action strikes. I am the leader of my school's sustainability club and have helped with achieving our school waste management goals. I feel connected to Gandhi's eco-friendly ideas and love the truthfulness in his quote. To me, it means thinking beyond the obvious in order to do more. We must do more than merely expelling greedy thoughts. We must do more than merely acknowledging how much we have. The quote is telling us to be conscious of our behavior because everything we do matters. We must see the effects of all our actions, no matter how small they may seem. We have become wasteful; and I believe that what Gandhi wanted most was for all people to be mindful. He wanted us to understand all that Earth has given us and how we are taking too much.

We must use some of Gandhi's peaceful environmental ideas to improve our lives and homes. First, we must raise interest and awareness in the community. This involves giving education about the climate which can be done through word, posters, the newspaper, events, and speeches. Organizing more nonviolent strikes and encouraging the public to attend is also very important. Another way to demand action on local issues is by writing letters to local politicians, newspaper editors, and city hall. We should also try to achieve better waste management skills. The majority of what we recycle in Rhode Island actually ends up in the landfill. On top of this, every year, 100,000 tons of food is thrown away instead of being composted ("Preventing"). If every town in RI focuses on giving its residents proper education on recycling and composting, as well as providing free community composting systems, we would become much more sustainable. A final way to give back to the nature surrounding us is by organizing more cleanups across the state. We can efficiently cleanup our neighborhoods and beaches with

teamwork. Real change can only be accomplished if many people work together. I believe that our community needs to apply Gandhi's wisdom to helping the environmental issues around us.

Earth has given us greatness, but we are wasting it. Gandhi realized this and has given us a warning. If we choose to listen, we can still reverse the devastating effects of climate change. If we choose to listen, we can preserve nature's greatness.

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