

## **Plastic bags must be banned. Discuss.**

### UGCD-1

Plastic bags are one of the cheapest and most convenient way to package, carry and transport goods such as food and clothing. They are thin, light and consume less space compared to other forms of packaging such as paper bags. They are part of our modern lives. However, people are unaware of the numerous problems they present to world. Plastic bags should be banned because they cause climatic change, endanger wildlife and affects humans negatively.

Plastic bag production is a major contributor to climatic change. Plastic bags are made from plastic, which is made out from petroleum. During the production stage, the petroleum must be extracted, refined and shaped. All these processes requires large amounts of energy produced from the burning of fossil fuels. Burning of fossils release greenhouse gases. These greenhouse gases cause greenhouse effect, which trap some of the sun's warmth at the lower atmosphere of the earth. This causes a general increase in the temperature around the world and leads to climatic change. Climatic change has increased the strength of storms, changing weather patterns, droughts, ocean acidification and rise in sea levels. If this continues, the consequences may be devastating and will affect the wellbeing of humans, animals and the environment.

Plastic bags should also be banned because they endanger wildlife and marine life. Natural Environment estimates that about 100,000 sea turtles and other marine animals die yearly. Animals mistakenly take these plastic bags as food especially when there are small food particles on them. These animals can choke on them causing them a lot of pain and may eventually die. This may cause the animal to die of starvation or infection. Since plastic bags take over 400 years to decay, once the animal dies by eating plastic bags and decomposes, the plastic bag is released back into the environment and continues killing other wildlife. Animals can also be stranded in the plastic bags, which can cause suffocation and drowning.

Furthermore, plastic bags affect humans negatively. Plastic bags clogs sewages and storm drain, which can cause severe flooding. Flooding leads to the destruction of properties and human lives. Flooding also helps the breeding of mosquitoes and exposes people to water borne diseases as it releases toxins in rivers. This causes serious health issues to humans. Plastic bags if not disposed of well can be hazardous to children. About 20 children die of suffocation by plastic bags yearly. Children can suffocate when playing with the bag and puts over his/her head, they may fall into them or even choke when swallowing it.

Plastic bags cause very negative effects right from production throughout their lifespan affecting the health of humans, endangering animal lives and causing changes in climate patterns. Therefore, plastic bags must be banned before these effects become more and more dire. The use of other eco-friendly alternatives like reusable jute and cloth bags should be encouraged to promote a greener environment.

### UGCD-2

Plastics with the passage of time have become a part of our everyday life. From the smallest toffee wrappers to huge containers possess an amount of plastic in them. Plastic bags as a product of plastics are widely used all over the world due to its convenience. Despite all the benefits plastic bags have, they are one of the major causes of environmental pollution. Besides many countries such as China have taken the step to either ban or Levi tax on the usage of it. It has become a necessity to ban plastic bags before the ruin our planet completely due to some reasons enumerated below.

Plastic bags have non-bio degradable properties, in other words, they cannot be broken down by natural acts and organisms. This means when plastic bags are carelessly discarded on the land it does not deteriorate and also constitute chemicals making the soil loose it's fertility causing environmental

pollution. Studies shown that over one trillion plastic bags are used world-wide every single year. It's disposal is the fear and if burnt releases harmful gasses into the atmosphere which causes serious health issues when inhaled. Moreover as these plastic waste heaps it becomes a threat to the ecosystem as both plants and animals are endangered. In the case of plants, as the soil loses its fertility due to the inability of disposed plastic bags in the soil to degrade, plant yield is greatly affected. Also in the case of animals, when these plastic bags are disposed carelessly, dogs, cows and cats may feed on it as food blocking their digestive system leading to their slow death and untimely death if it is not noticed on time.

Plastic bags also pose threat to marine life, wild life and human health. As most of the disposed plastic bags all over the world end up in the sea if not heaped on the land, marine and wildlife such as birds, fishes and sea turtles mistake it for food and consume them. As they consume it, they move through the food web then finally into humans who eat fish together with other marine animals. Besides, these plastic bags have some pollutant such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which affect the proper functioning of human hormones. As humans consume these marine lives who unknowingly fed on waste plastic bags in the sea, it ends up affecting them health wise leading to serious diseases and a case in point is cancer. This causes the malfunctioning of certain hormones.

In addition, plastic bags are the major reason for blocked sewage and drainage systems in the cities. Moreover, as many people carelessly drop these plastic bags after been used shows the high probability that they will end up in drains such as gutters retarding the free flow of liquids passing through them. It makes the gutters clogged resulting in floods consequently, disrupting the normal lives of people. To add to this, if the liquids that flows in these gutters are retarded from flowing freely, it becomes stagnant and turns to be a breeding place of harmful insects such as mosquitoes. Persons who live close to these gutters, which are now places harmful insects breed due to the use of plastic bags, have their health threatened. For instance, if youthful people stay around any drainage system which is clogged due to plastic bags causing stagnancy, mosquitoes will definitely breed there, making these youth prone to malaria. Moreover this does not only threaten the health of these youth, but also the economy of the country since they will take a number of days off, if they are tested positive for malaria. Hence, low productivity making the county's economy a shaky one.

In conclusion, although the usage of plastic bags is becoming a big threat for all of us, the problem is still overlooked and underestimated. This is as a result of not critically analyzing the long term effect of these portable and easy to carry plastic bags. Besides everyone in the world keeps using it due to its convenience. They never degrade completely which shows that so long as companies continue to produce them into the environment, the more plastic pollution and its effects there will be. Plastic bags have to be banned to save our environment and Earth.

### UGCD-3

One of the most important way people wants to live their lives is to live conveniently from homes, workplaces and anywhere they find their selves. For the sake of convenience in the business sectors, plastic bags whose constituents is crude oil have been adopted in a large scale due to the convenience it gives in packaging and its durability. Plastic bags can be found almost everywhere because of its affordability, durability and the convenient packaging choice for businesses and consumers. Despite the many important use of plastic bags by people, the environmental threats that the plastic bags pose cannot be overlooked.

Plastic bags have been recognized to be one of the primary cause of environmental degradation in the last few years due to its abundance. Three of the main harms plastic bags have caused the human environment include; endangering lives, environmental pollution and soil contamination.

One of the many harms plastic bags have caused the human environment is endangering both human and animal lives. According to a research study by the United Nations (UN), plastic is killing more than 1.1million seabirds and animals such as whales, dolphins, turtles, penguins etc. every year and more than 90 percent of all birds and fishes is believed to have plastic particles in their stomach. Even worse, after the death and decomposition of these animals, the ingested plastic particles still remains intact, meaning, other animals may also ingest it and eventually die because plastics take a very long period to decompose completely.

According to another study publicly published on environmental pollutions, the average person eats 70,000 micro plastics each year through foods and this serve as a threat to the average person's life.

A second harm that plastic bags have caused is environmental pollution. From the manufacturing of plastic bags to its disposal is toxic to the environment. According to a research study, a plastic bag can take between 400 to 1000 years to decompose completely or break down in the environment which means, all the plastic bags ever produced still lingers around in communities. Because only one percent of manufactured plastic bags are returned for recycling according to waste management, the communities still have a higher percentage of plastic waste on the streets, landfills, gutters etc. Wastes from plastic bags can be found everywhere whereas most of it get choked in gutters thereby blocking drainage systems to cause flooding.

A third negative effect of plastic bags is soil contamination. Plastics breaks down into smaller particles into the soil interrupting the growth of plants. Also people choose to burn their plastic wastes to get rid of them due to its inability to biodegrade. But because of the chemical constituents of the plastic bags, they release toxic chemicals into the soil making it less fertile for agricultural purposes.

To sum up, population growth keeps increasing rapidly and therefore the use of plastic bags will be more. Despite the many importance people get from the use of plastic bags, the negative effects it has on the environment is alarming hence the need to ban the use of plastic bags.

#### UGCD-4

Plastic bag is a bag made of thin and a flexible nonwoven fabric that is used for carrying goods such as foods and other stuffs.

Therefore plastics bags are of important to human. Plastic bag do not degrade in landfills because they are not biodegradable bans eliminate bags which equals less litter and less pollution in our oceans and marine animals sometimes take plastics bags as food source.

There are numerous advantages and disadvantages of the use of plastics bags some of them to be mentioned are as follows;

Firstly, one major advantage on the use of plastic bag is that it provides a safe way to transport our needed items. The main reasons why we use plastics for bottles that contain water and other beverages is that it keeps the product safe, we use the material to get water to vulnerable population all over the world.

Secondly, plastics take less space in our landfills. Although plastics take a significant amount of time for its materials to break down in a landfill, the amount of space that it takes in these waste disposal areas is minimal as compared to other items. Paper products takes up to seven times more volume.

Thirdly, some plastics have a long lifespan that encourage reuse. Plastics do not need to be single use product or be treated as a disposable. Many forms of this material have a long lifespan that is equal to or greater than what other material provided.

Despite all the advantages of the use of plastic bags it also have some disadvantages of which with that plastics bag needs to be banned. Some of them are as follows;

Plastics harm our ocean environment. Ecowatch estimated that 10 metric tons plastic products including grocery bags will wash out to the ocean almost every day. The chemicals from the bags leeches to the ocean and marine animals will consume them which could possibly transferred to humans upon consumption.

It takes a long time for plastic products to decompose. Plastic takes a long time to degrade when compared to organic items even the plastic bags we use every day takes about ten years to decompose naturally.

We cannot infinitely recycle plastic products. Metals can be recycled numerous times into a variety of different products because of the properties of the material. Plastic do not share that opportunity. We can only reuse it for a specific number of times before it losses its quality. This mean we are more likely to down-cycle this product or stash it in a landfill.

On the whole, plastics bags is causing more harm than good to human therefor needs to be banned.

## UGCD-5

It has become very necessary for us to keep and protect our environment so as to promote good and quality standard of living by avoiding the use of plastic bags, which most of us throw them on the environment. Plastic bags are made up of thin and flexible materials, especially the one with handles supplied by a shop to help carry goods purchase there. It has become a very big menace for humans and the environment as well. Therefore plastic bags should be banned to promote good standard of living.

Plastic bags have several benefits to human and the environment but the main benefits are that they are simple to use, convenient to stores and cost effective as well. Besides its main benefits to human; I

therefore believe that plastic bags also create a problematic to human and the environment. Again I can now say with most of its proper reasons that plastic bags should be banned with the following reasons.

Presently, Plastic bags are very pervasive; This is because the problem with plastic bags is that it does not really decomposed, it therefore simply breaks off into smaller pieces that are mostly in the water bodies. It also block street drains in most of our cities, it also litters national parks and most of our compounds which causes problem on our various streets and on the environment.

Moreover, Plastic bags are one of the main product of perforation ; This is also where fossil fuels removed from shale and the other work formations are much turned into resin pellets, are used to manufacture evermore plastics , that are easily discarded , plastics that are usually designed to be single use . Perforating pollutes water ,soil and air with toxins create underground activities that collapse into sink holes and it raises pressure in rock formations, destabilizing them and leading to earthquakes which creates problems to humans and the environment .

Furthermore, Plastic bags have become rampant in the killing of many people ; The effect of plastic bags upon wildlife that come from eating embraced in plastic debris have been reported more wildly among often than ever before ,leading to public outcry and protest. Also large plastic pieces breaks into smaller fragments that easy for even more animals spices to consume. Eating plastics result in malnutrition, intestinal breakage and also slow poisoning from chemicals leached from plastics bags.

Meanwhile, not all plastic is recyclable and most of them last forever; This is where plastics manufactured from each resin reacts differently, when it is reprocessed into a new item because different resins melt at different temperatures. Factories which make new products out of plastics are setup to take only specific resin types and even resins with the same number cannot always be recycled together. Again plastic bags particularly , the polythene bags which has already been used are always littered on our environment and sometimes get choked with rains to provide a place for mosquitoes to lay eggs . It also get stuck in the soil and because of how portable this bags are, they then last in the soil for many years and due to this it reduce the soil nutrients which result in the stunted growth of crops .

Undoubtedly, in the lights of the above mentioned points, it is strongly agreed that plastic bags should be banned at all cost.

## UGCD-6

A plastic bag is a container made of thin, flexible plastic material. Plastics have become a very common material found in many parts of the world due to its cheapness, durability and easy to be carried around. Though plastics are very useful in many ways, thus, packaging, storing, containing, etc. However, Plastics as a substance remains in the environment for hundreds of years thereby polluting the environment immensely, making it really difficult for plants to grow, thus causing the death of some living organisms, also causing natural disasters like flooding to occur. For these reasons banning the use of plastic bags can help save our planet from getting destroyed.

Plastic bags is a major cause of environmental pollution in our world, thus, it pollute the environment by releasing dangerous and deadly fumes when it is burnt. It also pollutes water bodies when it get into them, thereby causing fishes in rivers and seas to die, thus, plastic bags destroys the living habitats of marine creatures and even end up killing most of them when they unknowingly take in particles of these substances into their bodies or getting attached to some parts of its body especially the neck which makes movement and feeding really difficult and also flee from their predators.

Moreover, plastic bags make it difficult for plants to grow, there are lot of plants that used to grow naturally without anyone planting which are perishing due to plastic bags being found in the soil, plants like Mushrooms, snails etc. cannot be found anymore due to plastics. It also tend to destroy living

organism in the soil such as worms, ants, insects, pesticides, etc. which enrich the soil for plants to grow to die causing most plants not grow or even bear enough fruits or seeds.

In addition, plastics causes some natural disaster like flooding in the environment. People dump plastic waste into our drainage systems which tends to trap the drains and sewers, making it difficult for the rains to flow in it leading to floods. People tend to lose properties or their source of livelihood, thus, interrupting the normal life of people. This floods also reduce soil quality by washing away some important nutrients and even destroying farms and livestock which serves as a major economic activities for most people and it create dangerous land forms which becomes a threat to human lives and survival.

In conclusion, Environmental pollution, difficulties in disposing, causing the death of some living organism and natural disasters like flooding are some effects of the existence of plastic bags to the environment therefore it should be banned. There should be an awareness by educating people and spreading important news about the harmful effects of plastic bags in the community through public education. People should also keep reminding themselves about the harmful effects of plastic bags so it's gradually becomes a habitual doing without the bags.

## UGCD-7

Plastic bags are now every day-use material in our present society. Before the use of plastic bags, materials such as leaves and paper were being used to package goods. People around the world started using plastic bags after its existence in the year 1979. Currently, an estimated number of one trillion plastic bags are being used globally. The use of plastic bags can be an advantage and a menace at the same time. Therefore, if the government decides to ban plastic bags, the probability of a heated argument rising as a result of this action is high. In this essay, the reasons why plastic bags should be banned are going to be discussed.

Plastic bags should be banned because of its harmful effects on the health of individuals and the society as a whole. In the production of plastic bags, toxic materials and chemicals are being released into the atmosphere, and this causes air borne diseases. Plastic bags can also choke and suffocate people, especially children and this may lead to death. Due to its flexibility and thinness, it is very easy to rip apart and even when a little piece is swallowed, it can get stuck in the throat or digestive tracts and this can lead to other disturbing health situations. With plastic bags being available everywhere, it poses as a health hazard to man and society.

Also, plastic bags need to be banned because they are a major source of waste in our society. Plastic bags form approximately forty five percent of our total plastic waste, and has proven to be one major cause of littering in our society. This causes environmental pollution and can lead to the occurrence of natural disasters such as floods, since plastic bags are light weighted and are easily carried away by the wind into our gutters and sewage channels, choking them and preventing smooth flow of water.

Another reason why plastic bags should be banned is because of its negative effects on the lives of marine and land animals. Most animals dwelling in the sea and other waterbodies are being endangered due to the presence of plastic bags in their habitats. These animals consume plastic bags that sink to the bottom of the sea, thinking they are food. turtles, crocodiles and fishes are victims of these situations. Although plastic bags are harmful, they have benefits such as easy packaging and transportation of goods. Plastic bags should still be banned because they put the lives of these animals in danger.

In conclusion, plastic bags should be banned because they are harmful to the health of man and society, they are a major source of waste, and they also put the lives of animals in danger. Plastic bags

must be banned to prevent all these problems, and even if they are still in use, they should be properly disposed of to help create a cleaner and safer society.

#### UGCD-8

As much as there are many countries that have banned the use of plastic bags, many organisations are against this idea because it is very durable. But the question is because of its durability do we sit back and watch as we suffer its consequences certainly not. In this country, our major problem with plastic bags is how it is disposed. With all the effort put in place to solve this problem has been in vain due to the high level of illiteracy. In our criminal offence Act, it is an offence to throw rubbish on the street. Section 296 clearly states that whosoever goes against this should be asked to pay a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand cedis irrespective of the place or town it happened. These are some reasons why plastic bags should be banned; to save the soil and the environment we live in, plastic bags are harmful to terrestrial and aquatic lives, prevent run off water from draining and also causes illness to humans.

In order to save the soil and environment plastic bags should be banned. Plastic takes about 500 years in the soil before it decomposes. It therefore makes the soil less fertile since it slowly releases harmful and poisonous substances into the environment. When they are burnt they kill the microorganisms in the soil that play a role in decomposing organic matter, recycling nutrients and fertilising the soil for the development of healthy soil structure.

Plastic bags are harmful to terrestrial and aquatic lives hence it should be banned. Terrestrial animals like goat, cow and sheep's during feeding pick up plastic bags plastic bags take a long time to decompose they become harmful to these lives once they enter the digestive system of these terrestrial lives. The plastic bags also makes the animals feel full and starve to death. These animals suffer intestinal obstruction which leads to a slow and painful death. Plastic bags found along the shores has reduced turtle production hence should be banned.

Another reason why plastic bags should be banned is that it prevents run off water from draining. When this happens, during a heavy rainfall the water cannot flow as it should because plastic bags get choked at a place stops water from flowing. This has been the cause of numerous floods cases in the country. Many people lose their properties to flood and others lose their lives.

Again, plastic bags should be banned because it is the cause of illness to humans. When hot foods are served in plastic bags toxics are released into the food which cause illness. Also when waste plastic bags trap sewers during rains the environment becomes polluted which leads to the spread of various diseases like cholera and diarrhoea.

When plastic bags are banned gradually we will become use to not using it and sort for other alternative like the cloth bag this would help protect our environment.

#### UGCD-9

In Ghana and other parts of the world, plastic is a very common and widely used material. Over 80% of the world's population uses plastics as part of their daily living and activities they engage themselves in. Plastics can be described as organic materials, plastics is the term commonly used to describe a wide range of synthetic or semi synthetic materials that are used in a huge and growing range of application. But in every situation we have the negative and positive sides, and plastics also have their pros and cons on human lives and their environments as well. This write up is going to be based on the topic 'Plastics

Bags should be banned' which I am going to discuss and also raise points for the need of public awareness and safety.

First of all, there are many benefits we get from plastic bags and one of these benefits we get is that plastic bags contribute greatly to our economy. As we are all aware of the great demand of plastics in our country, Ghana and worldwide, there are companies which are established for the production of these plastic bags and because of the high demand, these companies also pay taxes to the government and even individuals who also some amount of taxes to the government indirectly by their purchasing of these bags. These taxes help the government to get more income in their administration of the country, as these monies are used by the government in providing social amenities such as water, electricity, and so forth, providing basic facility such as: hospitals, clinics and so forth to mention for the betterment of citizens and the country at large.

Secondly, the production of plastic bags also serve as source of employment for the youth. The plastic bags industries in Ghana have employed over 50% of the youth who works and get paid as work as producers and others too as suppliers. This has really help reduce the rate of unemployment in our societies and the country as a whole.

Also, though plastic bags has it importance and benefits, the same way it also has it disadvantages or bad side effects on us and our environment as large. One of the commonest disadvantage is that, it is hard to decompose. Plastic bags are materials which take a very longer time to decompose and does not even help in soil fertility as our country as our country is best known for agriculture activities. Growing of crops becomes difficult when the soil is not fertile and more over packed with plastic bags. This may even reduce the high rate of food and crop production which may highly affect human life and even animals.

Furthermore, plastic bags cause pollution in our environment. Each individuals daily activity contribute to usage of plastic bags and due to the inappropriate way of we keeping them after use, it is then discarded into our water bodies, surroundings and our gutters and pollutes them. This makes our water bodies unhealthy for aquatic lives and humans as well, it also makes our surroundings unclean and contributes greatly to the outbreak of diseases and our gutters also become choked for the flow of water which may cause flooding. More often too, they not renewable. After its use we cannot replace them.

In conclusion, plastic bags should be banned as its disadvantages outweigh the advantages and also cause more harm than good to human lives and our environment.

UGCD-10

Plastics have become an entrenched part of our lives since their introduction in the 50s. Plastics are used for constructional purposes, manufacturing of electronic products, equipment, furniture and bags. The usage and disposal of plastic bags are a matter of great controversy with countries such as Rwanda



banning the use of the plastic bags in 2008. The negative effects plastic bags outnumber the positive effects and hence should be banned.

Plastic bags have an adverse effect on both terrestrial and aquatic bodies. From the United Nations (UN) environment document repository, 1 to 5 trillion plastic bags are produced annually with less than 5% of the amount being recycled. The rest of the plastic bags produced are either dumped at landfills where they decompose or are incinerated, releasing toxic chemicals into the environment. Also, the light and buoyant nature of plastics makes it easy for plastic bags to end up in the ocean. In the ocean, plastic bags decompose into tiny plastics called microplastics from exposure to sunlight and air. These microplastics kill oceanic creatures that feed on them.

Furthermore, plastic bags clog drains resulting in floods. As mentioned earlier on, plastic bags are light and buoyant in nature and as such easily find their way into waterways where they collect and eventually clog water paths. In 2002, Bangladesh banned plastic bags after reports had shown that the flood in July of that year was aided by plastic bags that had clogged the drains. From the UN environment report, Kibera, a large informal community in Kenya has seen a significant change in the flow of water in the drains after the ban of plastic bags in Kenya.

As much as plastic bags have adverse effects on the environment, alternatives to plastic bags are not safe either. Research conducted by the United Kingdom environment agency in 2011 states that, "It takes more than four times as much energy to manufacture a paper bag as it does to manufacture a plastic bag". To produce paper bags, forest trees are felled, cut and heated under pressure at high temperatures. This process harms the environment as trees are felled and toxic chemicals that cause air pollution and water pollution are used. Plastic bags, however, are produced from the waste product of oil refining.

In conclusion, it can be observed that both plastic bags and alternatives are harmful to the environment although the harm caused by plastic bags is significantly greater as such plastic bags should be banned.

## UGCD-11

How many plastic bags are being used around the world this very minute? It is obvious you don't instantly know the answer but just keep the thought for a while. Plastic bag, a seemingly simple invention by the Swedish engineer Sten Gustaf Thulin in the 1960s has now become a completely ubiquitous product. Undoubtedly, plastic bags are used by almost every individual on the globe and have become part of our modern lives. These plastic bags provide a convenient way of carrying purchased goods. However, for each plastic bag used, our planet, human life and nature suffers a great deal of harm. This essay talks about why plastic bags should be banned.

First, plastic bags are made from non-renewable sources and contribute to wastage of energy and climate change. More often than not, we are always told to save or conserve energy. This is because energy conservation is good for our environment, health and global climate. Unfortunately, anytime we accept plastic bags, we take part in wasting energy and depleting non-renewable resources. Most plastic bags

are made from polythene. This substance is extracted through crude oil refining and natural gas processing. Crude oil and natural gas are fossil fuels or non-renewable energy sources whose extraction and production emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere contributing to global climate change. Also, producing plastic bags is energy intensive. According to 1bagatatime.com, about 8 to 10 percent of the global oil supply is used to make plastic and “to produce nine plastic bags, it takes the equivalent energy to drive a car one kilometer”. as stated by greentumble.com. This goes a long way to show that plastic bags are greatly contributing to wastage of energy and climate change and should therefore be banned.

Also, plastic bags pollute our environment. All around us, we see plastic bags lying along our roads, choked in our gutters, flying in the air, floating on water bodies and even on our beaches. Most often, plastic bags are not properly disposed and eventually find their way into the soil and water bodies. These plastic bags even though lightweight and small, end up clogging our water bodies and releasing dangerous chemicals which pollutes these water sources. Similarly, these plastic bags also release some toxins into the soil causing land degradation. A clear reason to ban this product.

Additionally, plastic bags are very harmful to marine life and human health. The sea, originally meant for aquatic life, is now being filled with plastic bags due to its excessive usage and improper disposal by man. These floating plastic bags in the ocean resemble food to some sea creatures. As such, these sea creatures such as sea turtles and fish end up consuming these plastic bags leading to their death. The chemicals in these plastic bags are released into the bodies of these aquatic life. These dead aquatic life are in turn consumed by human beings as seafood. This contaminated food releases harmful chemicals into our bodies and affects our health. As such, the earlier we ban plastic bags, the better for us.

Worst of all, these plastic bags never really break down and are difficult to recycle. Plastic bags may take up to 1,000 years or never to completely decompose into natural environment. In addition, most recycling facilities are not able to recycle plastic bags due to its tough nature of its components. Therefore if not banned, plastic bags will continue to cause more harm than good to us.

Banning plastic bags will mean finding a similarly convenient bag to carry purchased goods. Fortunately, there are various alternatives available including jute bags, canvas or cotton bags, basket bags, string bags among others. These alternatives are reusable, convenient and safe.

After almost four score years of using plastic bags, our world and our lives have been negatively affected by the use of plastic bags and there is no better time to ban it than now. Why? Well, if you care to know, this answers my very first question - There are about 10 million plastic bags being used this very minute around the world.

Swimming in the ocean some decades ago was refreshing and relaxing. Until 1979, when plastic bags were introduced, since then, swimming has become a tug of war between the swimmer and plastic bags . They are everywhere, underground in the oceans , in the gutters, and dump sites . They are made from polythene which is obtained from petroleum. These bags take a thousand years to decompose, hence they literally last forever. Given how many plastic bags are on earth and how long they take to decompose, it will never be gotten rid of unless it is banned . Some of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned is that they prevent plants from growing, they choke gutters and they are toxic for aquatic life.

To begin, plants germinating will not be able to germinate when they end up under plastic bags underground. If they grow under these plastic bags that get buried underground, their growth is stunted or halted all together. They slowly block sunshine from getting to the seed and entangle the germinated ones . Due to how long the plastic bags take to decompose, unfortunate seeds that end up beneath them never germinate .

Secondly, plastic bags that end up in gutters choke it and prevent the contents from flowing freely to their designated destinations. The plastic bags that people litter around mostly end up in gutters that rarely get cleaned ,hence they pile up and choke the gutters. Since the plastic will not decompose soon ,they choke the gutters and when it rains . The inability of the rain water to flow will cause floods.

Thirdly, plastic bags that end up in water bodies become toxic for aquatic life like fishes that mistake it as food. Fishes mistake plastic bags as food , these bags when ingested are detrimental to the health of the fishes . This does not only happen to fishes, other aquatic life like turtles and octopuses also suffer a similar fate, they mostly ended up getting entangled. They have little chance of detangling themselves , since this predator is new to them. When unable to detangle themselves they get asphyxiated and die .

To end, the banning of plastic bags should not be argued , since they prevent plants from growing, they choke gutters which in turn leads to floods and they are toxic to aquatic life . The purpose these plastic bags serve is not enough to exchange precious resources for.

Plastic is a type of container made of thin flexible plastic film. Plastic bags were invented to save the planet as trees were being chopped down to produce paper bags in the early years of 1959. While durable and energy-efficient in production, plastic bags deteriorate our environment, destroying the ecosystem because it causes a lot of land and water pollution, causing an untimely death of many animals, which in turn causes air pollution and poses negative impacts on human health.

Plastic bags deteriorate our environment, destroying the ecosystem because it causes a lot of land and water pollution. Plastic bags are difficult to recycle or breakdown and usually end up on the surface of water bodies and in the soil. This causes a large mass of pollution since they are non-biodegradable hence, making it a challenge to completely dispose of.

Additionally, it causes an untimely death of so many animals, which in turn causes air pollution. Larger pieces of plastic satisfy the hunger of creatures, as these plastic bags usually find their way around their food, making them eat less and very weak as a result. The plastic bags then blocks their gastrointestinal tract, making the plastic not eligible for excretion. This then causes great damage to their system and untimely death in most cases, not forgetting air pollution as the animal, especially those on land decompose.

Finally, plastic bags poses a negative impact on human health. Though plastic bags are good for branding and promoting the businesses of humans, it causes great harm to them as well. The plastic bags when being produced release a lot of toxic chemicals such as benzene and vinyl hydrochloride into the atmosphere, which are known to causes cancer, and other chemicals which makes the soil infertile. These same plastic bags then clogs drains and sewers, especially during the rains. This causes floods, turns the flooded drains and sewers into breeding places for dangerous insects such as the female anopheles mosquitoes, which are famous for their transmission of the malaria parasites, which then develops into malaria in the system of humans through a single bite.

Thus, while plastics are durable and energy-efficient in production, plastic bags should be banned. This is because, it deteriorates our environment destroying our ecosystem, causes a lot of land and water pollution, also causes an untimely death of so many animals which in turn causes air pollution, and finally poses a negative impact on the health of humans. Banning plastics is going to preserve the lives of both humans and animals, and make our environment free of non- biodegradable wastes.

#### UGCD-14

In our daily life, we cannot do away with goods hence calls for the selling and buying of goods. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on plastic bags or Levi tax on it. This is the most common form of packaging used worldwide. However, plastic has been a source of revenue in some cases for some countries yet the problem plastic brought to bare hasn't been solved completely because the implementation of these measures hasn't been successful. There are numerous reasons the government of various countries have come up with strict measures to limit the use of plastic bags. Plastic bags have being a pollutant to land and water immensely, chemicals from plastic bags destroying soil fertility, posing danger to human life, plants and animals both on land and water.

First and foremost, plastic has been a major cause of land and water pollution. Water bodies as well as land has been a source of survival for man and a means of transportation and shelter. However, some activities such as burning and dumping of plastic has been one of the major causes of making these waters and lands unsafe for living and interbreeding by some organisms. Marine animals mistaken plastic bags as food and when taken clogs their intestine and leads to slow starvation. Measures must be put in place to ensure the rejection of the use of plastic bags and adopt other forms of wrappers.

To continue, chemicals released by plastic bags enter the soil and destroys its fertility. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable but are rather photodegrade thus, breaking into more smaller toxic bits. As it breaks down, plastic particles contaminate the soil and enter the food web when animals ingest them. Most plastics are made from petroleum and natural gas which are non-renewable. Plastics on the other hand can block roots from extending to reach out for more water and nutrients for the plant. Soil fertility is of great importance and plastic bags can imorder plant growth through certain withholding factors in the soil.

Plastic bags have a negative impact on human health. There have been several cases of humans finding tiny plastic particles in their faeces. This is not surprising but this is detrimental to human health. Plastic bags and their products are very harmful to human health, even though most of our food are packaged in them. This affects the health of the kidneys and disrupts the proper functioning of other organs in the body.

To conclude, when plastic bags are ban, we can appreciate a steady flow of life and greater heights at all sectors of life. Fast forward, the stated consequences above would be curbed and adhered to. Notwithstanding the fact that plastic is a great source of revenue for some countries who could wrap their ways around it, plastic bags should be banned and replaced with new forms of packaging.

#### UGCD-15

Plastic bags have been useful in our communities and marketplaces for decades. It has provided easy and cheaper means to handle purchased goods from the marketplaces, malls and even our restaurants. But at the same time threatens our vegetation, marine lives, birds and our environment specifically, our drainages. Plastic bags should be banned for various reasons. The reasons span between; pollution attraction; wildlife threatened; food poison; groundwater pollution; accumulated garbage; and associated cost.

Although plastic bags have multi- facettted purposes, it will serve us well if they are banned and substituted for alternatives, because they coherently pose pollution to the world. These products contain chemicals such as bisphenols, and flame retardation which relatively assist in their rigidity and flexibility respectively. Sometimes, these oily and poisonous substances repel water but stick to petroleum base substances at prolong accumulation in the water bodies and the oceans.

In fact, another reason why it is prim to ban plastic bags is to protect wildlife. Basically, I have witnessed three dogs at different instances running and screaming because a plastic debris was left hanging in their anus as they tried to defecate and the dogs were left scared and almost dead as a result. Because of hunger, some of these vulnerable wild and domestic animals fall prey to these entangled bags in our homes or forest. And in the process of food chain, animals which feed on these improperly disposed bags end up passing on to their young ones.

On another scale, plastic bag banning is reasonable because it causes food poisoning. When aquatic animals in their habitats ignorantly feed on these trapped plastic bags containing harmful chemicals that are not biodegradable, they also transfer to other living organisms such as humans that depend on them for food. It also gets trapped in the digestive tract of the fishes that mistaken them for food. But the highly vulnerable ones lose their lives and the surviving ones transfer whatever they carry.

Over centuries, all living creatures have depended on water for survival. It will interest you to know how these bags have had a negative impact on the groundwater we use as a universal solvent (mineral water). When rain water and other water sources become contaminated by these bags, they wash down and seep to affect ground water. If this useful but harmful product is not banned, we as a third world country with little income will be impeded by a water contaminated pandemic.

Finally, the cost of plastic waste management is substantial and detrimental to economic growth and our national coffers. So, the ban of plastic bag will be beneficial in spite of the loss of jobs and income to some people in the country and the world. The reasons raised so far expose the negative effects posed by the bags, so we go for banning else we will one day be engulfed by the rubber plastic pandemic. Nobody in the world want to see another pandemic again.

#### UGCD-16

In recent times, the rate at which the land, water bodies and the environment as a whole gets polluted is very alarming and there is no doubt that plastic bags constitute a greater part of these pollutants. Plastic bags are containers that have been made in order to help with the transportation and packing of purchased goods. These plastic bags are very cheap and are widely used across the country. They form part of our day to day life and give nice packages to our purchased goods. Although plastic bags have advantages, their disadvantages cannot be overlooked.

To begin, plastic bags helps humans in their trading activities. Due to the light weight of plastic bags, they are easily transported and distributed. Also, the low cost of these plastic bags have increased the rate at which they are being purchased. This is due to the fact that very few materials are needed in producing these plastic bags. The durability of these plastic bags have made it possible for them to be used over and over again. To crown it all, due to its ability to resist water, they protect and keep your things safe for a long period of time.

Nonetheless, plastic bags pose a threat to the humans and environment as a whole. When these plastic bags are not properly disposed, they destroy the environment. Plastic bags thrown in drainage systems choke them and make them breeding places for mosquitoes. When it rains heavily, the choked gutters overflow their boundaries and cause flooding which in turn destroy lives and property. Plastic bags which successfully swim into through the drainage systems flow into the sea where they are mistaken for foods by aquatic animals. Due to the inability of their body to digest these plastic bags, they end up dying. The burning of these plastic bags also release harmful chemicals into the air causing air pollution. And this can lead to other respiratory diseases.

Although plastic bags have caused a lot of harm, it is the improper disposal methods being practiced by the people that has led to that. The people should be educated on the proper and effective ways of dealing with their plastic bags. Also recycling of these plastic bags should be encouraged. And proper alternatives for solving this problem should be devised rather than placing a ban on plastic bags. This will help make the people more disciplined.

In conclusion, I think other alternatives should be used to solve this problem rather than placing a ban on plastic bags. Although they have caused harms, their positive contributions cannot be overlooked.

#### UGCD-17

Conserving the environment is an important aspect that every nation needs to prioritize. Plastics are everywhere in our environment. The use of plastic bags is an effective way of transporting items due to its durability and its convenience. However, the convenience of these plastic bags comes at a very high cost to the environment and negatively affects human health. Plastic bags should be banned because it causes illnesses in both humans and animals, causes environmental pollution such as soil and water pollution.

Despite the importance of plastics in our every day lives, it should be banned because it poses a threat to human and animal lives. The use of plastic bags to heat food in the microwave cause the release of toxins to the food in it. Upon consumption by humans, it can cause diseases such as cancer, asthma and ulcer. Many times, these bags are mistaken for eatables by birds and animals. The plastic which is consumed by these species will then congest their digestive tract often leading to health problems like infections or even death.

Also, plastic bags should be banned due to the harmful effect on the soil. Plastic bags are harmful because they tend to disrupt the environment in a serious way. They get into the soil and slowly release toxic chemicals. When these plastic bags get infiltrated into the soil, they occupy the underground and avoid the uptake of minerals by the plants. This tends to make the soil infertile and hence affects agriculture.

Beside the adverse effect plastic bags has on human health and the soil, it also causes water pollution. Plastic bags can clog our waterways and is also harmful to in for the aquatic life . These toxic contaminate the waterways. They then enter the food chain as animals ingest them. Plastic bags should be banned as they pollute our water bodies and are dreadful to marine life as well .

There is the need for people to be educated on the need to ban the use of plastic bags. It's only when people really understand as to how plastic ends up creating damage to the environment which may jeopardize their life or those of the future generation, they may be inclined to do their bit and follow the ban on plastic bags seriously.

To conclude, plastic bags are non – biodegradable which means that they do not decompose easily. This makes their disposal a huge challenge. Burning them does not help as it releases poisonous gases into the atmosphere. For this reason, plastic bags should be banned because, it poses a threat to both human and animal lives and has an adverse effect on our soil and water bodies.

## UGCD-18

Bags come in different forms, sizes and colours. They are used in the packaging of food and transporting groceries. The commonest form is the plastic bag also known as poly bag. Most plastic bags are made from polyethylene. The use of plastic bags were introduced in supermarkets in 197. Plastic bags can be plain, coloured and of different sizes. Despite they being cheap and convenient to use, plastic bags are gradually destroying the environment and have therefore been banned in countries like China, Italy, Kenya and South Africa. Plastic bags should be banned globally to protect our environment.

To begin, plastic bags are a major cause of deaths in aquatic organisms. According to San Francisco marine officials, 370 autopsies were carried out and one in every three leatherback turtles had some form plastic in them. These organisms mistake these pieces of plastic bags for food. Once they get into their digestive systems, their tracts get blocked and they gradually die because of the toxic materials present in plastic. Not only animals are destroyed, but aquatic plants as well. This also goes a long way to affect human lives as majority of humans depend on these aquatic organisms for food(fish for protein).

Furthermore, plastic bags destroy the ecosystem. Plastic bags pose a high risk of danger to the ecosystem right from its production to throughout its lifespan. The production of plastic releases dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere and since they cannot be easily recycled, burning them also releases harmful gases into the air. This leads to pollution of the air and the greenhouse effect which may have negative effects on plant and animal life.

Moreover, plastic bags destroy the soil. Plastics are made of very harmful chemicals. Worldwide, plastic bags are not disposed of properly. Because of their lightness they may get stuck in the soil and as time goes on, harmful chemicals from the plastic are released into the soil. This causes the soil to become infertile making it unfavourable for plant growth and in the long run affect food production and harming human lives. Organisms within the soil are also killed.

In addition to destroying the soil, plastic bags may cause certain infections in humans. When hot foods are placed in plastic bags, the heat makes way for chemicals within the plastic to be absorbed into the food. This may cause different kinds of cancer, heart diseases and eventually death as humans consume them without knowing.

In summary, plastic bags should be banned because they are a major cause of deaths in aquatic organisms,, destroy the ecosystem and the soil and also cause diseases in humans. There should be public education on the harmful effects of plastic bags on the environment, legislations must be put in place to check their use and alternative forms of packaging must be provided. Although it may take a long time before plastic bags are finally out of our world, this dream is possible and the environment must be protected at all cost.

## UGCD-19

In today's world, plastic bags are widely used in every part of the world. We use them in our day to day activities for containing and transporting goods. Although plastic bags have become an essential part in our lives, it is causing more harm than good. It has therefore become very necessary to ban the use of it before we get buried under the growing pile of non- biodegradable plastic bags. Plastic bags should be banned because they destroy the environment by clogging sewage and polluting the environment and causing diseases in humans.

One of the damaging effects is the clogging of drains and sewers. This is caused by waste material that has been trapped in the drains or sewers. And these waste materials are mostly made up plastic waste bags. This usually prevents the water from flowing and a stagnant water is therefore created. Stagnant water serves as a breeding place for mosquitoes which causes malaria in humans. Apart from this, clogged sewages can result in an overflow during heavy rainfalls. This in turn results in floods because the pathway of the water has been filled with plastic wastes.

Waste plastic bags pollute the earth in so many ways. The disposal of plastic bags has become a huge problem for a few years now. This is due to the fact that plastics are non-biodegradable thus they take 100s of years to decompose. Plastic bags buried deep in the earth deprive plants of certain essential elements of growth. It also releases harmful toxins or chemicals which also affects the growth of plants. Furthermore, plastic bags causes harm to animals, both aquatic and terrestrial. Animals that mistakenly feed on plastic bags or presumably thought of it as food either chokes them or stays in their digestive guts for years and prevents other food materials from being digested and this can lead to their death. Many at times, tons of plastic wastes are found in the bodies of these animals' years after their death.

Most health diseases disturbing humans today are caused by toxins in plastic bags. Humans are frequently exposed to such harmful substances hence acquire such diseases. Diseases such



as cancer, respiratory and skin diseases are caused by the usage of plastic bags. One known and common way humans acquire such diseases is through the eating of hot food wrapped in a plastic bag. Also the extraction and manufacturing of plastic bags expose humans to very harmful substances.

To sum up all these, plastics bags although very convenient and easy to use is causing more harm than we aware of. Plastic bags as it is now cannot be banned completely but measures such as encouraging people to reuse the ones they already have instead of getting new ones every single time and recycling. Also, biodegradable bags could be used instead because they decompose faster. Practicing all these measures will help save our environment.

## UGCD-20

Plastic bags are essentials that traders or shop owners use to serve customers because they are convenient. On the other hand, the convenience of these items is very harmful to our society and environment. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and therefore plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it greatly. Many countries around the world like China, Morocco and Bangladesh have either taxed or partially banned the use of plastic bags. However, this is not effective since the bags are being used in numerous countries like Ghana. Plastic bags should be banned totally and these are the reasons.

To begin, plastic bags are not easy to recycle. Every year, trillions of plastic bags are made. In spite of the numbers that are produced, just 10% of these plastic bags end up in recycling facilities. Since plastic bags tend to get caught up in the recycling machinery, most recycling facilities do not accept them. Eventually, these bags are left to litter the community choke gutters or burnt and this poses danger to the environment.

Also, plastic bags pollute the land and water. Plastic bags do not degrade quickly; but when they do, they breakdown chemical toxins into the soil and therefore make the land infertile for crops to grow well. The bags are light weight and can easily travel long distances by the wind. These bags enter the sea or even the oceans to threaten aquatic organisms and the world as a whole. However the plastic bags can be replaced with jute, calico or cotton which are much heavy and can decompose easily.

Lastly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Although plastic bags were made to replace paper bags, it has caused more harm and danger to human life. Plastic fragments from plastic bags can absorb pollutants which are mostly hormone- disrupting chemicals. Besides, marine organisms often mistake

plastic bags for food and consume it. The chemicals make its way through fish and other aquatic organisms. Unfortunately, this has become one of the gradual killers of the human race.

In short, though plastic bags have become a threat to the environment, this problem has been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people are not concerned with the long term effect of these portable bags they use in everyday life. Moreover all of these people keep using the bags due to its convenience. But now, the usage of plastic bags has to stop to help save our environment.

## UGCD-21

Plastic bags are one of the most common items found in our environment. They are thin and flexible containers generally used for packaging goods such as foods, chemicals, and magazines. And due to the chemicals used in producing these plastic bags, they take hundreds of years before they decompose. The production of these plastic bags began in the 1950s and five trillion plastic bags are used each year. This essay will seek to discuss the reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

One reason why plastic bags should be banned is the negative impact it has on agriculture. Discarded plastics have found their way to our soil, these bags emit harmful chemicals that may leach into the agricultural produce in the soil and groundwater. Humans depend largely on agricultural produce which is threatened by plastic bags. The toxic chemicals from the plastic bags may cause a decline in agricultural production and when eaten may cause some serious health complications. Also, animals may ingest plastic bags that may be present in their food, water, or in their habitat which may cause the death of the animal, and when the animal decomposes the plastic reenter the environment.

A second reason is the pollution of water bodies and drainage systems by plastic bags. The indiscriminate disposal of plastic bags has led to the pollution of water bodies. An example is the 'korle' lagoon in Accra Ghana. The 'korle' lagoon is one of the most polluted water body in Ghana. The constant pollution has led to constant flooding in the area which has caused the loss of several lives and properties. The pollution of water bodies has caused the government to use a lot of money to clean and purify water for domestic and agricultural purposes. The lives of aquatic animals are endangered due to

their exposure to plastics, some of these animals get entangled in these plastics and some ingest them. This has caused the decline of aquatic animals and the consumption of these aquatic animals most likely dangerous for humans.

Another reason for the ban on plastic bags is the negative impact on the atmosphere. The stage of decomposition of plastic bags causes the release of harmful chemicals like methane and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Exposure to these chemicals is linked to cancer, brain defects, impaired immunity, and other health complications.

Moreover, plastic bags need to be banned because they are materials that cannot biodegrade. Plastic cannot decompose; it breaks down into smaller pieces. Humans discard more than half of the five trillion plastic bags produced. Only one percent gets recycled. The rest ends up in landfills, is burned, or becomes litter.

In conclusion, this essay has undoubtedly stated reasons why plastic bags should be banned. And alternatives to plastic bags should be encouraged such as cotton bags, paper bags, and cardboard boxes. And also, people need to be educated on the adverse effects of plastic bags in our environment.

UGCD-22

In today's society life without plastic is nearly impossible. We depend on it for our basic needs. Plastic is a material that is used for some items such as; bags, bottles, tables and chairs. Plastic bags remain in their present forms in the soil or water even after several years of disposal. Being cheap and convenient, it has managed to creep into every household and has become an inevitable component in our lives. It has come to a world-wide realization that plastic bags are causing more harm than good and therefore needs to be banned. Instead of making our lives easy, these plastic bags have become the root cause of various issues such as environmental pollution and illness in humans and animals. Discussed below are some reasons for which plastic bags should be banned.

First of all, plastic bags are harmful to wildlife, marine life and human health. Birds, mammals and aquatic animals often mistaken the plastic bag and other plastic materials for food and consume them. Once these plastic bags are consumed, the digestive system of animals gets congested leading to the development of health infections and death when there is suffocation. The toxic chemical from which these plastics are made can disrupt the normal functioning of hormones in the body. Through food web, these chemicals are transferred to humans when they consume the fishes. Humans could also develop cancers or other serious conditions which would affect their health. For this reason, plastic bags should be banned.

Furthermore, plastic bags are a major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable and thus remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. Most people burn these plastics as an alternative to dispose them but the burning also causes air pollution which can affect the respiration process of humans. Some people have also created a site to collect these plastic in heaps but anytime it rains, these plastic bags are washed into gutters which causes it to be choked and makes drainage a challenge. Notwithstanding, the rain also washes these bags into oceans and seas which also become polluted. This causes our beaches to be unclean and also renders our water bodies harmful for consumption. Due to this, plastic bags should be banned.

Also, there are some external cost that are linked to these plastic bags, one of which could be production cost. Even though plastic bags are mostly given out for free when one purchases an item, there is a huge cost associated with its production. The raw materials or resources needed for its production could be very scarce and limited making the demand exceed supply thus affecting the price negatively. Moreover, it is difficult and expensive to remove plastic bags from our surroundings. Expensive in the sense that it really cost to hire people to undertake cleanup exercises. For this reason, plastic bags should be banned.

In conclusion, plastic bag usage has become an imminent catastrophe which needs immediate attention. It is high time that we realize the importance of our environment and avoid things that can degrade it and cause our health status to depreciate. Should plastic bags be banned, we must understand that mere ban can never help to sort the hazardous effects of it but the introduction of its substitute will do.

UGCD-23

Plastic bags are the most common form of packaging. Plastic bags are made from crude oil. Plastic bags are lightweight, water-resistant, and very durable. The uttermost advantage of plastic bags has made them

very popular all aspect of life, making them the equivalence of waste. In recent times, there has been the realization that plastic bags are very detrimental to our environment. It is difficult to get rid of them because plastic bags do not biodegrade. The adverse impacts of plastic bags are undeniable hence they should be banned.

One of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned is because they cause a lot of environmental damage. Plastic bag waste poses serious environmental problems in most countries. The situation is even worsened in economically disadvantaged countries. A single plastic bag can take up to a millennium to decompose completely. This makes the bags stay in the environment longer which in turn leads to a great build up on the natural landscape. If disposed improperly, they can constitute environmental nuisance and may clog gutters and drains which may lead to flooding in case of heavy rainfall. Most of the flooding that occurs in most communities in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana is as a result of choked gutters caused by the improper disposal of plastic bag waste. Since plastic bags were introduced in the 1960s, people have used trillions of them. The more plastic bags are used, the greater the chances of environmental damage.

Moreover, plastic bags poses serious threat to animal and human life. A lot of aquatic lives has been affected because of plastic in their environment. Plastic bags are mostly responsible for the death of huge numbers of marine species. One species that is at great risk is the already endangered leatherback turtle and amongst others including the green turtle. Turtles often mistake the floating plastic bags for food. Once they eat the plastic bags, they get caught up and wrapped around the gut or get stuck in the throat causing suffocation which would eventually lead to death. Infants and children as well stand the chance of being suffocated when they block their mouths and nostrils with them, because they are airtight.

Furthermore, plastic bags should be banned because they aid in the depletion of the ozone layer. Since plastic bags do not biodegrade, the easiest way to get rid of them is to burn them up. Burning of these bags releases toxic fumes into the earth's atmosphere which in turn depletes the ozone layer. This causes temperatures to rise and contributes to global warming which can cause climate change and environmental disaster. Long term change in temperature, pressure, wind, precipitation and humidity presents challenges to our survival.

In conclusion, the dangers posed by plastic bag usage is practically alarming. Plastic bags are basically hazardous materials in disguise. Plastic bags should therefore be banned and replaced with other forms of packaging such as paper bags.

#### UGCD-24

Plastic is a common term for a wide span of synthetic organic solid materials suitable for the produce of industrial products. Millions of plastic products are produced each year all over the world. Plastic is used over almost every sector, including to produce packaging, in building and construction, in textiles, consumer products, transportation, electrical and electronics, and industrial machinery. The extensive chemicals that go into the production of plastics are highly toxic and pose serious threats to living things

of all species of the earth. In as much as, people want plastic bags to be banned from usage because it poses danger to wildlife and causes pollution, it also has benefits such as its durability, water resistance and it's also good for branding.

First and foremost, plastic bags must be banned because it poses danger to wildlife, many times marine animals mistake plastic bags as jellyfish which leads in consuming the plastic bags rather, once the plastic bag is eaten, it will not be able to digest and will end up harming the animal by lodging in the gut. When it rains the rain water washes the plastic bags on the land into our water bodies. They suffocate the fishes which may lead to death or retard growth of the living things in the water bodies.

Following, pollution is another drawback why plastic bags should be banned. Pollution is the introduction of harmful contaminants into the environment that cause unfavourable change. Plastic bags pollute the land, air and our water bodies, because plastic are not biodegradable, they tend to last forever without decaying when disposed of, due to the fact that plastic bags do not decompose user tend to burn them and in these case, it releases toxic and harmful chemicals into the atmosphere which causes respiratory diseases such as lung cancer and asthma. Plastic bags also leach into our water bodies, degrading the water quality with toxic compounds which ends up harming human and animal health.

Contrary to all the problems plastic bags pose to the environment, they also have benefits such as it being durable and water resistant, much food get spoilt due to its packing, when food is packaged in paper and water gets in contact with it, it spoils but because plastic bags can survive extreme environments and do not degrade in hot and cold temperatures thus preserving the wholeness of the food inside it, and since plastic bags are durable it bring about solidity in product delivery and also protects products form dust, odours and light.

Also, plastic bags are good for branding, it is easy for those who runs supermarkets to print logo, business's name and other information on plastic bags, and the good aspect is that it is very simple to make changes in the design. It also attracts buyers and makes products easy to handle.

To sum up, plastic bag is very useful in modern advancement and provides us with various useful articles, and it also serve as a serious threat to our environment. Plastics bags affect many people, not only the consumers but plastic bags also affect the environment and animals. It is important to ban plastic bags because they are used worldwide and are mostly used once and then thrown out and because of that we are just harming ourselves by continuing to use plastic bags.

## UGCD-25

Plastic bag is a type of container which is lighter in weight and serves as a form of packaging. Plastic bags are very useful and convenient and are used for containing and transporting of goods. It has become a very common commodity and an inevitable component in our daily lives. Plastics bags, though very useful, have proved to be extremely harmful to the environment. Three of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned are plastics bags are not biodegrade, affect human health and contribute to climate change.

First of all, the main reason why plastic bags should be banned is because it cannot biodegrade. Plastics bags are non-biodegradable. They can last for many years. It does not decompose but break down into pieces and leach into the soil. The harmful chemicals in plastic bags leach and contaminate the underground water and destroy plants which serves as a source of food. Also, it litters the environment and does not make the environment a save place to live in. Hence, large amount of money need to be spent to control rate of plastic bags in the environment.

Secondly, plastic bags affects human health is another reason it should be banned. Compounds such as Bisphenol-A used in the manufacturing of plastic bags release harmful chemicals into the atmosphere. These chemicals when inhaled into the human body can cause diseases such as lung cancer and birth defects. Also, direct contact of plastic bags with food products can lead to the transmission of these toxic chemicals into the food product and contaminate it. Hence, large dosage of these harmful chemicals into the human body can be highly detrimental to the human health and may lead to death.

Furthermore, plastic bags contribute to climate change is a reason it should be banned. The production of plastic bags emits different kinds of chemicals and gases into the atmosphere. These chemicals and gases emitted contribute to global warming which result in climate change. The climate change may lead to water bodies drying up, extinction of wildlife, drought, death of animals and plant species, bush fires and destruction of food chain. Therefore, plastic bags may cause the environment not to be a safer place to live in.

In conclusion, although plastic bags are useful and convenient, the above evidences shows that plastic bags has become a great threat to the environment. The government should ban and continually spread the awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags and provide friendly alternatives. This will help save the environment and our earth.

## UGCD-26

Plastic bags are made from plastic materials. Plastic bags help us in various ways. For instance, almost every market that you go today, you will see people carrying their shopping items in plastic bags. Right from food items to clothes to shoes, there is hardly any item that we do not use a plastic bag to carry. These plastic bags have become part of our modern lives. However, as everything has its advantages, so as it has its disadvantages. The use of these plastic bags has caused a lot of harm to the environment and has also affected human health negatively. We use plastic bags when we go shopping, but do we even bother to know what happens to them afterwards. Therefore, the reasons why plastic bags should be banned are as follows:

To begin, environmental damages is one of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned. Plastic bags have been known to cause a lot of environmental damages. A single plastic bag can take up to thousand years to decay completely. This makes the bags stay in the environment for a longer time, in turn leading to great build-up on the natural landscape. In other words, the more plastic bags you use, the greater the chances of environmental damages.

Again, threat to animal lives is another reason why plastic bags should be banned. Animals like goats normally eat disposed plastic waste bags that have been thrown away. When this happens they get choked and die. Plastic bags not only have adverse effects on our natural habitats, but have also been found to be responsible for the deaths of many animals.

Furthermore, Pollution is also a reason why plastic bags should be banned. Since the plastic bags are light in weight, they are easily blown by the wind and get stacked in trees, fences and in water bodies. The plastic bags also litter the environment when this happens and this may lead to accidents when one is driving. Also, when the plastic bags are in water bodies, they contaminate the water and make it unsafe for drinking and for human usage. This also brings about the breeding of mosquitoes which may lead to malaria and many other diseases

Also, Suffocation is another reason why plastic bags should be banned. Not only animals, infants and young children have also been reported to have lost their life on account of plastic bags. Since plastic bags are thin and airtight as well, children often end up blocking their mouths and nostrils with them. In case they are not been able to be monitored by their parents or by any adult person, it leads to suffocation and, in some cases, even death.

Nevertheless, Fumes are also reasons why plastic bags should to be banned. Since this plastic bags do not rot, they are been gathered and burnt and since they are made from chemical substances, they release toxic substances. When we breathe these substances in, they affect the respiratory system. Hence, causing harm to human health.

To conclude, Plastic bags causes more harm than good to both humans and animals and therefore must be banned.

#### UGCD-27

Plastic bags are materials made from polymers and petrochemicals, which for the past century has become mankind's greatest help regarding shopping and carrying goods and foodstuffs. Its production has been on the increase since the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a result of increased global demand. These portable and helpful bags have posed many challenges to mankind, and the ecosystem and therefore has to be banned. Non-biodegradable, harmful to wildlife and marine creatures and toxicity to human health are some reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags and materials are non-biodegradable. This means they cannot be easily decomposed by microorganisms, as a result of these plastic bags can stay for centuries without decaying. Research states that plastics bags we use for our purchases and errands can take 10 to 20 years to decompose when deposited; with increasing populations and demand for these plastic bags, there will always be plastic bags around as new ones are produced before the old ones get decomposed. This surviving nature of plastic bags is the reason for the recent increase in global pollution, and to reduce this there is the need to place a ban in the production of plastic bags. This will help adjust the rate of pollution.

Also, plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine creatures. Fishes, turtles and birds mistakenly consume these pieces of plastic as food and this has resulted in increasing aquatic death, thus reducing the quantity of seafood available for consumption. Pets and ruminants may also consume these plastics or get entangled in them as a result of their exposure. Research reveals that more than half of global plastic waste is dumped into the ocean to the extent that large kilometres of the oceans are covered with filth of plastic waste. This has made the water toxic for aquatic life and food poisoning in the long run. To save the ocean and aquatic life, there is the need for a ban on the production of plastic materials. This will go a long way to increase available seafood to supplement the growing population.

In addition, plastic bags are to be banned because they are very toxic to human health. Irritating eyes, skin diseases, lung problems, cardiovascular defects and cancer are some illnesses caused by toxic plastic materials. Fishes consuming these plastics eventually end up in our food chain. Also, the production of plastic bags also involves the use of polymers and petrochemicals which release harmful gases into our atmosphere. These gases are the causes of depleting ozone layer, acidic rain and air pollution resulting in respiratory diseases, and thus disrupting our ecosystem. Plastics bags and materials for the past century has resulted in grievous health challenges to mankind and therefore has to be banned.

Finally, the problems posed by plastics have been overlooked for some time now. It is time all countries come together and enforce laws to help solve this problem. Individual countries can start by spreading awareness on the dangers of using plastic bags, imposing taxes as well as seeking other alternatives like paper bags and cloth or jute bags. Countries like India, South Africa and Kenya have already initiated this ban and are doing well and so the rest of the world must join to help save our planet and ecosystem.

#### UGCD-28



Plastic bags are a convenient way to carry our purchased goods when we go shopping. They are a part of our modern lives, and we do not tend to think much about them. In fact, it is estimated that up to 10 million plastic bags are used every minute around the world. Let us have a look at the most important reasons why single-use plastic bags should be banned.

Plastic bags contribute largely to climate change. We hear everywhere around us that we need to save energy. It is good for our environment, health and global climate but only a few of us realize that each time we accept those disposable plastic grocery bags at store checkout, we actively participate in wasting energy and depleting non-renewable resources. Most plastic bags are made of polyethylene, a substance that is derived from crude oil refining and natural gas processing. Oil and natural gas are [non-renewable fossil fuel-based resources](#) and through their extraction and production, they emit greenhouse gases, which contribute to global climate change.

Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life. Plastic bags are often mistaken for food by animals, birds, and marine life. The consumed plastic congests the digestive tracts of these animals, and can lead to health issues such as infections, painful intestinal blockage, starvation or death by suffocation. The most heart breaking part of this is that the affected animals are not aware they eat something that will make them feel miserable and will slowly kill them. Animals can also easily become entangled in this plastic waste. There were numerous cases of birds caught in plastic bags, unable to fly and feed, eventually strangling themselves to death.

Plastic bags are harmful to human health. Many of you may have heard it already. Tiny plastic particles have been found in human faeces. But is it really that surprising? Plastic bags and plastic products overall contain substances that are harmful to our health. The most common are inorganic dyes that are added to change the colour of plastic bags. Additionally, plastics in our digestive tract may affect absorption of some important trace elements (like iron) which we need for maintaining proper health. Plastic bags and plastic products overall contain substances that are harmful to our health. The most common are inorganic dyes that are added to change the colour of plastic bags.

In conclusion, plastic bags should be banned as they disrupt the beautiful nature of our environment, are perilous to all life on the planet. There are many eco-friendly alternatives to plastic bags such as cloth bags which are also reusable. The ban on plastic bags would be most effective if the general public was made to know the adverse effects of using plastic bags through awareness campaign and the likes, We must keep reminding ourselves about the harmful effects of the plastic bags on our nature and keep a tab on their use.

## UGCD-29

A plastic bag is a container made in the form of a thin and flexible plastic film. It is a very common form of packaging. Plastic bags are made from polythene which is derived from natural gas and petroleum. They are used by almost everyone in the transportation of goods. Plastic bags are very helpful in our day-to-day activities so what happens to them after they are disposed of? They go on to pose a lot of threats to the environment. In the following paragraphs, the following are some reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags do not decay easily. They are made of polythene which does not decay easily due to its chemical composition. It takes 500 years or more for plastics to start to decay and they completely disintegrate in 1000 years. Due to this, places where plastic bags are disposed become full. Hence, when the plastic bags are not disposed of properly and are left anywhere on the surface of the earth they may end up in water bodies and the atmosphere since they are light in weight. When they are burnt, they release a lot of greenhouse gases into the environment which destroys the Ozone Layer and leads to Global Warming.

Secondly, plastic bags can easily be replaced. Plastic bags can be replaced with bags made from organic materials such as paper and cloth which decay easily and are reusable. It would be better to use a material which is environmentally friendly as compared to making ones that cause damage to the environment considering they both serve the same purposes. Therefore, instead of the plastic bags, paper bags can be made to serve the same purpose at a lower cost as well as reduce pollution.

Also, plastic bags have a lot of effect on our water bodies. For example, plastic bags not disposed of properly may end up in the ocean and later be consumed by marine animals. This can be dangerous to their health especially to the little animals. A report made by “No Plastic Oceans” states that every year, 1 million marine animals die from plastics. Plastic bags also harm the Coral reef. That is, the coral reef becomes sick after being exposed to plastics.

Finally, the cost of recycling and cleaning up plastic waste is high. Since plastic bags do not decay easily once they are piled up they must be cleared and cleaning them up is quite costly. Recycling plastics is also quite expensive since machines and experienced personnel must be used. If these plastic bags are banned the money used to clean them up and recycle them can be put into other profitable ventures.

In conclusion, plastic bags cause more harm than good and therefore should be banned in order to save this planet and to protect our environment.

#### UGCD-30

Some school of thought are of the view that plastic bags are the most portable way of packaging products and handling it very easy as it can be conveyed from one place to another but from researchers, plastic bags constitutes over 50 per cent of land and water pollution making it the world's number one pollutant. In our part of the world, plastic waste management is a very big challenge. According to the country's environmental agency, about 2.58 million metric tonnes of raw plastics ends up as waste, while only 19 per cent is re-used. In the subsequent paragraphs defines out why plastic bags should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags causes floods. Plastic bags is one of the major cause of flooding in Ghana. Plastic bags when not disposed well after their use end up in our drains. This causes choked gutters and hence does not allow the smooth flow of water. When our gutters get choked, if it rains water is not allowed to flow thereby causing floods in many parts of the country. Water ends up in the homes of many people and causes destruction to lives and properties. When this happens the government has to spend a lot of money to help flood victims which goes a long way to increase government expenditure.

To continue, plastic bags also causes destruction to aquatic lives. Improper disposal of plastic bags have become a norm for most people in the country. These plastic bags are sometimes disposed of into water bodies such as rivers, lakes and the sea. This destroys the beauty of water bodies and causes destruction of aquatic lives. Most fishes die after swallowing such plastic bags. When this happens fishermen do not make enough catches from the water bodies. For this reason the few fishes they get are sold at higher prices on the market. This goes a long way to affect the economy of the country.

To conclude, plastic bags interfering with soil fertility. When plastic bags are improperly disposed on the ground it turns to interfere with the soil fertility as plastic waste does not decompose in the soil. For this

reason it may cause harm to soil living organisms and reduce the fertility of the soil. Farmers may find it difficult to harvest in large proportions. This is so because as plastic bags are in the soil and does not decompose. The soil fertility reduces so the ability of the soil to support plant growth is low hence brings about low productivity. In a nut shell, plastic bags are of essence and great help to both producers and consumers. In a country like Ghana, where plastic waste management is a major challenge. The prohibition on the use of plastic bags would be a right direction geared towards development. As its adverse benefits pose a great danger to the country.

#### UGCD-31

Plastic is a synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers which are malleable and also can be formed into solid objects. In particular, plastic bags are the common form of packaging and are used for transporting and containing goods such as foods, chemicals, wastes etc. There are several advantages of plastic bags. Although there is a perception that plastic bags are unfriendly environmentally they help in the day to day activities of many consumers. Plastic bags are faster and easier to open and pack, this improves efficiency, they are also effective in relation to their cost. Not to mention, plastic bags have less weight and less space to store unlike other containers. Despite these advantageous facts, plastic bags have negatively affected the lives of animals, humans and the environment as a whole down the years and therefore many people believe the use of plastic bags has to cease since they have been of bad services than the good ones. Three of the main reasons plastic bags should be banned are, environmental damage, threat to human and animal lives and effects on climate change.

To start, plastic bags have caused several threats to the lives of humans and animals. Numerous animals such as birds have been reported to die every year mainly because of plastic bags in their environment. Plastic bags not only have harmful effects on our natural habitats, but have also been found to be responsible for the death of many animals, mainly on account of the suffocation encountered on eating plastic bags. Again, infants and young children have also been reported to have lost their lives due to plastic bags. Since plastic bags are thin and airtight too, children often end up blocking their mouths and nostrils with plastic bags. In case they are not seen by an adult, this could lead to suffocation and in some cases lead to death.

Secondly, plastic bags have been known to cause a lot of environmental damage. Research has shown that a single plastic bag can take up to thousand years before it decays completely. Due to this, the bags stay in the soil for a long period. This affects the nutrients in the soil since the plastic bags contain harmful substances and could lead to soil infertility which affects the growth of plants. Also, plastic bags produce toxic fumes when they are burnt. This leads to environmental pollution and greatly affect the environment.

The third disadvantage of plastic bags which is effects on climate change is a concrete reason to ban the use of plastic bags. Since plastic bags cannot decompose, the only way to clear them off is to burn them up. Burning of plastic bags can release toxic fumes into the air, which air pollution to much higher levels. When the plastic bags are burnt, they leave lasting changes and those changes have negative effects on the climate. Plastic bags are usually made from polythene which consist of ethylene derived from natural gas and petroleum. When these harmful substances are released into the air, they deplete the ozone layer which affects the climate negatively which lead to bad weather conditions.

To sum up, it is clearly evident that the reasons given above which are threat to human and animal lives, environmental damage and climate are reasonable enough to ban the use of plastic bags. However,

plastic bags have been of good service to the society but they have caused more harm than good and therefore they have to be banned to save the whole world from falling into a pit.

#### UGCD-32

A plastic bag is a common form of packaging. It is a type of container made of thin, flexible plastic film, nonwoven fabric or plastic textile. Plastic bags are used for containing and transporting goods such as foods, produce, powders, ice, magazines, chemicals and waste. The convenience of these plastic bags however, come at a very high cost to the environment and negatively affect human life and as such should be banned.

Plastics should be banned because they take decades to degrade, causing everlasting pollution to the environment. Plastic bags are the major source of filth that has engulfed the environment and led to several damages. They compose about 90% of solid waste generated and littered in the environment. Thereby posing a major sanitation risk and also a serious challenge to a clean environment. Furthermore, plastic bags can be seen hanging from the branches of trees, flying in the air on windy days, settled amongst bushes and floating on rivers. They clog up gutters and drains causing water and sewage to overflow and become a breeding ground of germs and bacteria that cause diseases.

The release of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is another area for consideration. Some countries have introduced so-called “environmentally friendly” plastic bags. These bags take about three years to break down into practically nothing. This sounds like an attractive solution though, but the truth is that the process of breaking down these petrol-based bags causes carbon to become methane, which is a greenhouse gas. Moreover, it is possible to get ‘plastic’ bags manufactured from corn. These break down very quickly and give off no more methane than any product on landfill sites. Unfortunately, they are more expensive to produce and a few shops use them.

The dangers plastic bags pose to sea life is another reason why they should be forbidden. Sea creatures are hurt and killed every day by discarded plastic bags. For instance, dead turtle with a plastic bag hanging from its mouth is not a pleasant sight but mistaking plastic bags for food is commonplace amongst marine animals. Plastic clogs their intestines and heads to slow starvation. Moreover, others become entangled in plastic bags and drown. Furthermore, because plastics take decades to degrade, every year our seas become ‘home’ to more and more plastic bags that find their way there through our sewers and water ways. Every plastic bag that is washed down a drain during rainfall ends up in the sea. Also, bags that are flushed down a toilet ends up in the sea. Occasionally, fishermen return from fishing with plastic waste instead of fishes.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that plastic bags have been essential in our everyday lives. However, the risks they pose on the environment and human lives outweighs their merits. There is the need to create a viable environment for the upcoming generation and banning plastic bags is one of the ways forward.

#### UGCD-33

Revolution, technology and urbanization have made plastic bags the most common commodity in human life. A study shows that, plastic bags are the invention of Sten Gustaf in the early 1960s. However, as useful as plastics may seem; there is a need to evaluate the other side of the coin, a side most humans turn a blind eye to. The decision to ban plastic bags solely depends on how they affect both the environment and the society positively and negatively.

Conservation of the environment which is with no doubt the uttermost priority of society is threatened by plastics. This is due to their non-biodegradable nature which pollutes the environment. According to Ghana's United Nations Development Programme(2019) , statistically, one million tonnes of plastic waste is produced annually. 2% to 5% of the waste produced is recycled. The rest ends up on landfill

(38%), land (28%), sea (23%), or burned (11%). The pitiable fact is that both sea creatures and humans are affected. This is a grave situation where actions must be taken to prevent further damage than can be mitigated.

Moreover, plastic bags litter the streets. Society's habit of disposing plastic inappropriately is a reason visible enough to ban them. The litter heaps into mounts of garbage which in the long run turns out to be a safe haven for rodents and mosquitoes leading to adverse health diseases such as cholera and malaria. They need to be banned and replaced with materials human not readily dispose of.

Furthermore, plastics endanger wildlife. Plastic materials always find their way into oceans. By this, they endanger marine life in many ways. Extinction of certain species prevail in some oceans as a result of irresponsibility on the part of society. Species such as the Leatherback turtle and Green turtle are extinct because they mistake floating plastic bags for jellyfish; their only food source leading to suffocation and starvation.

In contrast, the idea of banning plastic bags mean a new alternative would be used in packaging. Paper bags and jute bags would be the preferable choice. This could also endanger the environment as both materials are obtained from trees. There be a heavy dependence on trees endangering forests as well as animals which depend on them.

In addition, banning plastic bags affect the unemployment rate. Plastic bag industries provide employment for thousands of people. The ban would create a huge havoc in the economy. Many would be rendered jobless.

Nevertheless, banning of plastic bags would result in a great loss in technology. Plastic bags are one of the most scientific discoveries ever known. Banning them on the notion that they endanger the environment is not a reason visible enough.

In conclusion, instead of banning them, society should focus on developing new technologies to ensure they degradable and eco-friendly. Also, the irresponsible disposal of plastic waste needs to be dealt with by passing laws. It is with no doubt that plastic bags ease human lives in multiple ways. However, one cannot deny that they are deadly materials that degrades the environment. They are proved to cause an ecological imbalance in the environment due to their non- degradable nature. The decision to ban plastic bags solely depends on how they affect both the environment and the economy.

#### UGCD-34

Over the past years, methods of disposal have been initiated to do away with multiple types of waste. These methods have come a long way to reduce and change the way we dispose of waste products. Over the years, people have just kept changing their methods of disposal, from disposing of waste in a confined area to disposing of waste in a mere dustbin. Although these methods of disposal have proven to be quite excellent, it is rather undoubted that the problem is not with the methods of disposal but, the waste product which is being disposed of. Every product comes with its ways of disposal, but many products tend to be very hard to get rid of. Plastic bags are one of the products which tend to be very hard to dispose of and these are reasons it should be banned.

Plastic bags that have been used for quite a long time tend to cause land degradation. Land degradation is simply engaging in activities that are detrimental to the land. When plastic bags are improperly disposed of, due to the inability of plastics to decay at a fast rate and form part of the earth's soil, they become deleterious to the land. In the long run, when the land is destroyed it may bring rise to multiple complications. For instance, when plastic bags are improperly disposed of they tend to move places such as tight corners of drainage systems which may eventually cause flooding and may lead to multiple complications. Plastic bags tend to cause a plethora of complications to the land.

In addition, plastic bags are to be banned for a much safer alternative which is the paper bag. The paper bag works the same purposes as a plastic bag whereas paper bags are safer and better in the sense that they can be recycled and they are biodegradable. Instead of disposing of paper one can recycle them into

various artefacts for reuse. They also outweigh plastic bags in so many merits for instance, paper bags pose a less suffocation risk to children than that of plastic bags and can withstand pressure or weight than plastic bags. In case an individual is unable to recycle the paper bag into anything for reuse it is easily disposable and will decompose at a faster rate relative to a plastic bag. For this reason, paper bags are much better than plastic bags in every way.

Plastic bags tend to be hazardous to both plant and animal life. Since plastic bags are not biodegradable and take quite a long time to decompose they tend to move through places such as wildlife and can become a choking hazard for animals. After a long time, when plastic bags finally decompose they tend to release toxins into the soil diminishing the life span of plant lives. Thus, plastic bags have once again proven to detrimental to the lives of plants and animals.

In a nutshell, the use of plastic bags without a doubt is inclined to causing more harm than good. Plastic bags are prone to causing more harm than good even when properly disposed of. They tend to hazardous to plant and animal life and can also be deleterious to the land; as such plastic bags should be banned for a less harmful alternative which is the paper bag.

## UGCD-35

The use of plastic bags has brought about changes worldwide. These changes occurs as a result of the daily activities engaged by people with the use plastic bags. Plastic bags have been useful in many ways to consumers but it is abused when it is not properly disposed. This is why the ban on plastic bags must take place in all countries. However the effects of plastic bags makes it harmful to the environment this is why the ban should be promoted.

First and foremost, the use of plastic bags has led to environmental pollution. Plastic bags aid in transporting products as a benefit derived from it use. More over the environment is affected negatively when plastic bags are improperly disposed. Irresponsible persons, after enjoying the benefits gained from the use of plastic bags tend to use their environments as a garbage site. They hereby dump used plastic bags (rubbish) at places which they find convenient or suitable. These plastic bags disposed improperly becomes the pollutants of the land and aquatic bodies. However banning plastic bags will mean that living organisms will be free from the extreme damages that plastic bags cause in their environment.

Secondly, the frequent use of plastic bags gradually poses a threat to human health and the environment. Plastic bags are manufactured with toxic chemicals such as petroleum and chlorine. These chemicals in plastic bags when reacted with the environment becomes harmful to human health, wild and aquatic life. Plastic bags that are disposed improperly by incineration through the process releases toxic gas into the atmosphere. This gases do not only deplete the ozone layer but also affects the lungs of humans and animals when breath in. Also, at home plastic bags that are being used to heat food items in a microwave is very dangerous to the health of those who do so because while heating the chemicals in plastic bags mixes with the food item making it harmful for consumption. However plastic bags are harmful to the health of people due to the chemicals they contain and the health risks they bear. This is why there is the need for the ban of plastic bags.

Lastly, the use of plastic bags has brought about the decline in soil fertility. Plastic bags are non bio degradable materials their presence in the soils makes the soil infertile. It takes the earth five hundred (500) years to completely decompose one plastic bag. Therefore plastic bags makes the fertile agricultural land becomes infertile by occupying the underground spaces in the soil preventing aeration and mineral uptake by plants. However there is the need for the ban on plastic bags as a measure to promote agricultural success.

In conclusion, the ban on plastic bags does not necessarily mean that it use will cease but the ban is a measure to control the individual use of plastic bags since the improper disposal of plastic bags in effect

pollutes the environment, endangers lives of humans and finally makes the land infertile hence affects agriculture. Although plastic bags benefit in many ways we must all know that a mere ban on them would not be helpful. So let the use of plastic bags be avoided totally to ensure a safer environment and healthier life.

#### UGCD-36

Over the years, plastic bags have become an inevitable component in our everyday lives. Plastic bags, one way or the other have become a very common commodity that are given at no cost during retailing and sales. Plastic bags are manufactured using petroleum and are produced in quantities of trillions per year. Though they are useful in many ways, they are as well harmful too. Plastics are non bio-degradable, which means they do not decay easily making their disposal very challenging. Plastic bags have disadvantages such as: pollution, threat to human and animal lives, and contamination of food.

To begin, plastic bags are a major cause of pollution. Land and air pollution are mostly caused as a result of improper disposal of plastic bags. These bags when disposed on land, take longer years to decompose or decay completely. Since they are non-bio degradable and are toxic, toxins are released into the land rendering the land infertile for plant growth. Burning of these plastic bags also release very harmful substances into the atmosphere making breathing difficult for humans and animals

Secondly, plastic bags are a threat to human and animal lives. Animals such as goats, cows, dogs, and cats feed carelessly on these plastic bags. This in turn, can block their digestive tract and render them death slowly. Children on the other hand, if exposed to designed and colorful plastic bags might play with them and will be at a high risk of suffocation leading to death.

Finally, plastic bags lead to food contamination. When Plastic bags come in contact with heat, they release harmful toxins, which are very hazardous to the health of human beings and animal consumption. When hot food is packaged in plastic bags, there is the exchange of chemicals between the plastics and the food which is maximized by high temperature. These harmful toxins which are released into the food are likely to cause diseases such as; cancer, ulcer, kidney and heart failure.

In conclusion, it is seen that plastic bags are manufactured with petroleum making it hazardous for the health of human and animal usage. Also when not disposed properly leads to air pollution causing it harmful for breathing. Again land pollution causes land infertility for crop growth. Foods kept in plastic bags are also not good for consumption especially when in contact with heat. Animals who feed on plastic bags get their digestive tract congested, ultimately leading to death. I suggest plastic bags should be banned for a more safer environment and healthy life living.

#### UGCD-37

The use of plastics over the years has helped humanity in the sense that, most of the things used in our world today, is made from plastics. Plastic is a material made from coal, salt, natural gas, and crude oil through a process of polymerization. A plastic bag is one of the many things made from plastics and it's used by humans daily. Some of the benefits we get from the use of plastic bags include; they are reusable, cheap, effective, and useful to carry things. However, the devastating damages caused by the use of plastic bags outweigh the benefits and hence, the need for it to be banned.

Plastic bags are generally non-biodegradable materials; thus it's not capable of being decomposed. Unlike plants and animal residues that decay and decompose over time, plastic bags cannot decay, making it a problem in dealing with plastic waste. After the use of plastic bags people normally throw them away and they most at times end up in gutters and water drainages; and because of its inability to decompose, stays there for a long time leading to choking of gutters which may result in flooding during the raining season which may also lead to the destruction properties and loss of lives.

Also, plastic bags cannot be recycled. Recycling is the act of processing used or abandoned materials to create new products. Dissimilar to other plastic material that can undergo recycling, plastic bags cannot be recycled. Thus it cannot be processed to create new products or materials. Therefore after it has been used it is of importance that is well disposed of, but mostly a lot of people fail to do that, and in the ends up increasing and adding up to the filth in the environment which could also result in the outbreak of diseases like; malaria, cholera, yellow fever.

Again, plastic bags are very light and often float in the wind, ending up in oceans and harming humans as well as animals. In the process whereby plastic bag is found in water bodies like; the ocean, river, and lakes: there are some chemicals inside the polythene bags that dissolve in the water, and fishes in their processing of feeding may end up consuming some these chemicals which could be harmful to them, and to the humans who take them in.

Overall, the use of plastic bags has caused more harm than good to both human and animal life because; they are non-degradable materials, cannot be recycled, and can cause harm to humans and animals. For this reason, the use of a plastic bag should be banned.

## UGCD-38

Plastic bags have been in existence for decades now and till date it has been the most used material for the packaging of products bought from shops, malls and supermarkets. Customers prefer the plastic bags to other packaging materials as a result of its convenience and cheap cost so retailers don't hesitate to give it out for free to customers to keep their products in. As a result, plastic bags are one of the most common packaging material you can find in homes and most of these bags are not properly disposed of hence, they're seen littering the streets or trapped in trees and hedges therefore becoming a major nuisance in the environment. Plastic bags should be banned because they take longer time to degrade, clog drainage systems and can cause accidents.

Firstly, there is the need to ban plastic bags because of the long degradation time. Based on recent studies, plastic bags take 1000 years to degrade so it becomes difficult to get rid of them in a short time. Moreover, plastic bags disposed at dump sites are buried into the soil and since they're non-degradable, they stay in the soil for a long time thus making the soil lose its fertility as the plastic bag covers and prevent water and vital soil nutrients from reaching the soil. This also serves as a threat to animals such as cattle that feed near these sites as they might end up swallowing the plastic bags which can cause suffocation and may eventually lead to death.

Also, plastic bags have the tendency to clog drainage systems resulting to floods. During heavy downpour, the running water picks up plastic bags into smaller drains and accumulate at various entry points into the storm drain and this hinders the free flow of water into the storm drains and for this



reason, the water overflows from the smaller drains and floods into settlements nearby which leads to the loss of lives and property.

Thirdly, plastic bags should be banned because they have the potential to cause road accidents. Due to its lightweight, plastic bags fly easily through the air and may settle on the windscreens of moving cars, impeding the driver's clear vision of the road as a result causing accidents to happen from cars veering off into pedestrian walkways or oncoming vehicles.

In conclusion, plastic bags have caused significant harm to the environment although they are much more convenient. It has led to the flooding of drainage systems and has posed a lot of threat to animals and humans as it takes a longer time to degrade and can cause serious implications when ingested. There is the need for authorities to take appropriate action to ban its production and usage in order to keep the environment safe.

## UGCD-39

Plastic bags are a major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. It has become very essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on the plastic bag or Levi tax on it. However, the problem hasn't been solved completely because the implementation of these measures hasn't been as successful. The plastic bag is a major villain that poses a threat to the ecology in general and living things in particular. So it is high time that we eradicate this deathly item from our environment, if we are unable to put a conscious effort to recycle it. There are many disadvantages of using plastic bags. Plastic bags should be banned because of its negative impacts on not only the natural environment but also human health.

First and foremost, the increased use of plastic bags makes the disposal of them a sturdy task. As plastic is non-biodegradable, it takes almost 5000 years for the degradation to take place. The plastic bags can clog our waterways and is also a very harmful toxin for the aquatic life. Plastic bag wastes cannot be even disposed of through incineration as the process releases harmful gases that can deteriorate the atmosphere. These wastes accumulate in heaps and become a great menace to the ecosystem. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they emit toxic gases into the atmosphere, which when inhaled causes severe health problems.

Furthermore, Plastic bags have huge impact on land and water. The pollution of ocean water by the plastics has a drastic impact on the food web. All the aquatic animals and plants take into their systems plastic fragments which is in the ocean. (To be precise, 46,000-1,000,000 plastic fragments is present in every square mile of our world's oceans). Humans then consume the sea foods and take it to themselves in a harmful way. Sharks and Whales are washed to the shores dead as they gobble these plastic bags considering it as Zoo planktons. Also, the deposition of plastic waste hinders the free flow of rainwater thereby reducing the ground water. Dhaka, the Capital of

Finally, it is no wonder that plastic bags would affect the living things in this planet. Every plastic bag which looks enticing, emulates different toxic elements, making the food product harmful. Sometimes these turn out to be carcinogenic as well. Researchers have discovered that the plastic minuscule entering the food packets are true. Used plastic bags that are thrown up on the roads are consumed by many animals such as cows, goats since they think it as eatables. This can result in the

animals choking up and prove to be fatal. In other cases, it gets accumulated in the animal's body inducing illness and death eventually.

Although plastic bag is becoming a big threat for all of us, still this problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people do not look at the long term effect of these small, easy to carry bags they use in their everyday life. Besides all of these people keep using bags due to their convenience. But now everyone has to completely stop using the plastic bag to save our environment and earth.

#### UGCD-40

The urbanization, technical revolution and the ease of every process

have led to the usage of plastic in such a way that plastics have become an inevitable component in our day to day life. Plastic bags are made of a thin, flexible plastic materials, especially one with handles supplied by a shop to carry goods purchased there. But the actual layout is, instead of making our lives easy, it turns out to be the major problem that causes environmental pollution, illness in humans, harmful for animals and marine creatures, clogged sewage, non-biodegradable which serves as challenges in this contemporary times.

Firstly, the main point and reasons why plastic bags should be banned is because it causes environmental pollution. This explains to us that plastic bags can cause more harm than good because it pollute our land and water. Throwing of plastic bags could make the soil unfertile and this is very bad. Fertile soil is needed to help plants in growing, which is indeed our food. Animals also need soil cause it allows plants to grow and animals eat plants. Burning plastics cause very polluted gases which causes illness in humans, example, lung diseases like asthma, cancer, stroke and others.

Secondly, another reason why plastic bags should be banned is because they litter our streets. This explains that not only do plastic bags fill up our landfill sites where they will remain forever more, but people throw them into the streets. They accept plastic bags when they do not need to and once out of the shops take their items and litter the streets with the unwanted plastic bags. Motor accidents are caused and many end up in trees. As a society, this shows that we do not need plastic bags if we are willing to just throw them away.

Thirdly, the reason why plastic bags should be banned is because they are harmful to human health. There are some chemicals from the plastic bags which can disrupt the normal functioning of hormones in the body. Most fragments in the oceans like plastic bags have some pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyl together with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons which are hormone-disrupting. Once the marine animals consume these chemicals, they move through food web then later into the humans who consume fish together with other marine animals. In this case humans who prepare them end up consuming all these chemicals affecting their health.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that plastic bags have made our lives simpler from multiple points of view but then in summary of why it should be banned, it has brought about environmental costs, resource extraction, resource depletion, loss of quality of life, economic loss, wildlife loss and so on. However, we must understand that mere ban can never help to sort the hazardous effects of the plastic bags. It is high time we realize the importance of our precious environment and avoid things that can degrade our environment for a safer and healthier life.

## UGCD-41

Plastic bags are useful in the day to day life of humans life. For instance, food stuffs are kept in plastic bags after buying it from a shop and also plastic bags are use for packaging. Plastic bags must be banned because it causes harm to human and the environment.

Plastic bags pollute land and water bodies in the environment. Incorrect disposal of plastic bags by people and industries often dispose their waste plastic bags in the nearby rivers or lakes. This waste plastic bags pollute the water and makes it unsafe to use. Plastic bags are lightweight and travels from place to another place by wind. People do not dispose their used plastic bags in the bin which travels to other places to make the place unclean.

Burning of plastic bags leads to air pollution. Plastic bags are made to last for a long period of time and it is impossible to break down. Burning of plastic bags in an open environment leads to air pollution due to the release of some poisonous chemicals in the atmosphere. The poisonous chemicals which is released into the atmosphere when inhaled by humans and animals causes respiratory problems and global warming. Some harmful chemicals when released into the atmosphere contribute to greenhouse gas like co<sub>2</sub> which turn to global warming.

Plastic bags are harmful to human health. Plastic bags are materials made of many chemicals which are harmful to human health. The chemicals which are used in making of plastic bags are toxic and harms the human health. The toxic chemicals leach out of the plastic bags when hot food are kept inside for human consumptions and cause diseases such as Cancer.

Economic effects counts to the reason why plastic bags should be banned. Plastic bags are polluting the environment and making the country unclean and unsafe, the country spends a lot of money for the cleaning up the waste plastic bags in the country. The country spends a lot of money on labor and materials for the cleanup exercise. The cleanup exercise is done to prevent pollution of the environment and also ensure good health of citizens.

To conclude, industries producing plastic bags should be stop. Once the industries are banned from producing plastic bags, pollution of the air, water and land by plastic bags will stop and good health will be ensured.

## UGCD-42

Plastic bags are one of the most common type of packages used in the world. Plastic bags are from plastics which are obtained from fossil fuel like oil and petroleum. Plastics are widely used to manufacture many things like plastic bags, kitchen wares, and packing materials. Over 300 million tons of plastics are produced every year. Plastics bags are long-lived and non-biodegradable product which remain in the environment for a longer period and frequently disposed improperly which tend to cause more harm than good. In a way to solve these problems, many countries like Italy, Bangladesh and south Africa have banned the use of disposable plastic bags. Some of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned are; deterioration of the environment, harmful to marine animals and causing health issues to humans.

Firstly, plastics bags deteriorate the environment. The frequent use of plastics bag has resulted in a large amount of plastics waste which is sometimes hard to dispose of. Despite the light weight of plastic bags, it remains in the environment for more than 100 years. It breaks into pieces, deteriorates over time but it does not decompose into the soil. It finally ends up in landfills which leads to damaging the soil. Many people choose to burn the plastics bags which even caused serious like lung cancer, heart disease and acute respiratory disease in children from poisonous gasses it produces. Thus, disposing plastics has become a very big challenge today.

Also, plastics bags are very harmful to marine animals. There are over 90 million tons of plastics that are been dumped into the Indians Ocean and the Pacific Ocean every year. It is also estimated that 46,00 to 1,000,000 plastic fragments floats within every square mile of the world's oceans. These plastic bag fragments floating is often mistaken for food and are been consumed by the marine life like fishes and sea turtle living in the oceans. When they take in these plastics bags, it takes room in their stomach sometimes causing suffocation and then death. Small fishes are sometimes also entangled in the plastics bags, causing suffocation, starvation, and drowning.

Lastly, plastic causes health issues to humans. Many of these substances that the plastic bags are used to wrap are not bound to chemical chain of plastics, which means they can migrate under different circumstances as small as a change in temperature or light. Toxic ingredient can be evaporated into air and can be breathed in. They can also leach into food and drinks then be ingested. Some effects are also because of the poisonous gasses from the burnt plastic bags. Examples of some health problems like respiratory problems, vision failure, liver disfunction and many more are all related to the use of plastic bags.

To sum up, plastic bags causes a lot of harm to the environment including the marine life. Also, it brings health issues to humans. These problems if not considered, can shorten the life span and humans and animals' life.

#### UGCD-43

In our modern era, industrialization has brought about the invention of many articles that are intended to make life easier and better. One such article is the plastic bag, which is used as containers to carry and store items and are easily manufactured. This led to its increased use worldwide. Although something may be good, it has its bad side as is the case of the plastic bag whose harmful effects overshadow its benefits and thus should be banned. Plastic bags should be banned because plastic bags are not degradable, cause environmental pollution, bring harm to wildlife, and also cause health problems.

First and foremost, one of the demerits of plastic bags which calls for its ban is the fact that plastic is not degradable. Degradable items are materials that are broken down by organisms in the environment when disposed of. Plastic bags are manufactured using artificial means and do not contain any natural elements in them. This prevents the breakdown of the plastic material when it is disposed of and thus they are said to be non-degradable. They remain in the environment for countless years when not recycled or disposed of properly and cause a lot of harm to both the environment and animals. Banning plastic bags will help check non-degradable materials in the environment.

Moreover, plastic bags are one of the major causes of environmental pollution and should be banned. Plastic bags when not discarded properly and released into the environment exhibit harmful effects on their surroundings. Because plastic is synthetic, it can release harmful chemicals into the ground. This destroys the fertility of the soil thereby degrading the land. These chemicals can also seep into the water underground and nearby water sources polluting them. Plastic bags that are disposed of

through burning emit toxic gases that contaminate the air.

Consequently, plastic bags polluting the environment bring harm to wildlife. Toxic chemicals released from plastic bags into the ground kills microorganisms in the soil. Contaminated soil loses its fertility, which in turn leads to plants in the soil drying out. The chemicals which seep into the water bodies also cause loss of aquatic life. Some animals also mistake plastic bags for food and consume them. These animals are unable to digest the plastic because it is non-degradable and therefore die through suffocation or poisoning. This is more than enough reason to ban plastic bags to preserve our wildlife and prevent the extinction of some animal species.

Last but not least, plastic bags should be banned owing to their adverse effect on human health. Plastic bags are produced using various chemicals to achieve desirable performance. People are exposed to these chemicals not only during manufacturing but also by using plastic bags because some chemicals transfer from the plastic bags to the foods or products they carry. These chemicals can disrupt the normal functioning of the body and even cause cancer.

To sum up, although the introduction of plastic bags has brought a lot of benefits, its faults are far greater. Therefore, plastic bags should be banned and in place, a safer alternative such as paper bags would be best.

#### UGCD-44

Plastic bags are a convenient way to carry our purchased goods when we go shopping. They are a part of our modern lives, and we do not tend to think much about them. It is made of a synthetic organic compound and estimated that up to 10 million plastic bags are used every minute around the world. Plastic bags helps a lot in our day to day activities but irrespective of that, it also have some disadvantages.

Firstly, a major effect of plastic bags is pollution of water bodies. Plastic bags have become the main cause of environmental pollution today. The plastic bags entering into our water bodies are a major cause of water pollution, the chemical structure of most plastics renders them resistant to many natural processes of degradation and as a result they are slow to degrade. Living organisms, particularly marine animals are harmed by mechanical effects, such as entanglement in plastic bags, problems related to ingestion of plastic waste, or through exposure to chemicals within plastics that interfere with their physiology.

Secondly, plastic bags causes illness. The production of plastic bags releases toxic chemicals which are the main cause of serious illness. The polluted environment is a major reason for various diseases which are

spreading easily in human beings. Chemicals like lead, cadmium and mercury comes in contact with human through the smoke from burning plastic bags, these toxins causes cancer, congenital diseases, immune system problems and childhood development issues and are found in plastic bottles and food packaging materials.

Clogged Sewage is another problem. Waste plastic bags are the main cause of trapping of drains and sewers, especially during rains. Plastic bags piles up in our gutters and other waterways creating severe safety hazards. Drainage system blocked by plastic bags have been identified as a major cause of flooding in many towns and cities like Accra and Kumasi during the rainy season. Not only do flood destroys homes, delay traffic, and causes mudslides but also creates breeding grounds for water borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever.

The only benefit of Plastic bags is that it serves as a carriers. The day starts with the morning milk supply which arrives in a trendy plastic cover. Fruits, vegetables, oil, cloth, shoes, pens and other items are all wrapped by the polythene covers. If we look around, they are everywhere. Food venders, shop attendants, market men and women all deliver their product in plastic bags for a faster and easier handling. Besides its purpose, plastic bags are very durable and more affordable as compare to other materials like paper bags.

In conclusion, plastic bags have become a threat for all of us and must be banned. Most people often overlooked and underestimate the long term problems associated with plastic bags due to their own convenience, but it is clear now that plastic bags does more harm than good and therefore must be eliminated.

#### UGCD-45

Plastic bags have become the most widely used material in the world. It is used everywhere. Before plastic bags were made, paper bags were used to convey goods and groceries from stores but these bags often get wet and tear so they were not reliable. In 1907, Leo Baekelent invented the use of plastics. Plastic bags are made from natural materials such as cellulose, natural gas, coal and crude oil through a process called polymerization. Because these materials are used it is more durable, water resistant, cheap and convenient compared to paper bags. Even though it has some advantages, it has a lot more disadvantages.

Firstly, The use of plastic bags is one of the most ubiquitous material in the world and one of the main source of environmental pollution. Because it is used by a significant number people, it accumulates a lot of waste. Pollution caused by plastic bags comes as a result of poorly recycled plastic which are carried off by winds and rains, and later find themselves in drains,

lands, trees and water bodies. Birds, animals and aquatic life mistaken these plastic bags as food and consume them. When this happens, their digestive system cannot break it down into smaller particles causing suffocation, infections and death. Drains get choked which results in floods.

Secondly, banning plastic bags will help reduce the effect of chemicals from the plastic bags on human health. In the production of plastic bags, chemical are used and some of these chemicals can disrupt the normal functioning of some hormones in the body. When aquatic animals consume these chemicals, they move through the food web and eventually ends up for humans consumption. When humans consume these chemicals, it affects their health and leads to various diseases such as cancer, impaired immunity and birth defects.

Lastly, Plastic bags do not decompose easily. It takes approximately 1000 years for plastic to decompose. This shows that since it takes a very long time to decompose completely and companies produce more plastic each day, as the amount of plastic bags increases so does the effect of plastic pollution increases. Banning the use of plastic bags will help curb the effect of plastic pollution.

In conclusion, the government should pay close attention to the many negative effect plastic bags have on humans and the environment as a whole. Bans should be put in place to help curb plastic bag waste. Even if some countries cannot completely ban it, they can make its citizens pay heavy amount for using plastic bags to discourage its usage.

UGCD-46

Plastic bags, though useful in many ways, have proved to be much harmful and dangerous to the environment and human lives due to many factors which are; they are non-biodegradable, which means they do not decompose easily making their disposal a huge challenge. Plastic bags are responsible for death of large numbers of marine species. It also cause soil and air pollution and also cause loss of jobs to individuals.

First of all, Plastics are non-degradable. Plastics do not have the natural method of decomposition due to its non-biodegradable properties, hence, contributing to severe environmental pollutions, destroys the soil and its fertility. Studies suggest that over one trillion plastic bags are being used globally every year. The problem is its disposal. These wastes gather in heaps and become a great threat to the ecosystem. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they produce dangerous gases into the air, which when breathed in causes severe health problems.

Another problem occurs when plastic bags result in the death of a large number of marine species. When plastic bags interact with soil and reduce the fertility. It has a negative impact on the agricultural produce and yielding. When it rains, the flow of water bodies causing water pollution. In view of this, it endangers aquatic species and marine wildlife. Marine species have found consuming plastic pieces by mistake as natural food and has led to their death.

Also, It has caused soil and air pollution. Plastic use must be banned. Throwing poly bags plastics could make the soil infertile. This is very bad. We need fertile soil to help plants to grow, which is our food. Animals also need soil because it makes plants to grow and most animals eat from plants. We can say they indirectly depend on soil. Burning Plastics causes very polluted gases which could make our lungs weak for breathing. It also can cause many lung diseases like asthma. We can do a little work to avoid the use of plastic bags and encourage the use of paper bags instead.

Lastly, the ban of plastic bag causes loss of job to individuals. The production of plastic bags is a big industry. There are factories which produce the bags and distribute them. Let us not also forget that these factories may cause pollution, but they also have a large amount of staff policing the production. In the time of a recession we should not be looking to prevent thriving industries but save them. Factory workers are finding it increasingly difficult to get work in these days and total ban of plastic bags distribution would only make their plight for employment even tougher.

To conclude, the use of plastic bags has greatly affected humans, animals and plants in a sense that it has contributed to the death of marine species, it has caused soil and air pollution which has affected the growth of plants and the burning of the plastic bags has produced harmful gases and when inhaled causes lung problems like cancer and others to humans. I suggest that the use of plastic bags should not be totally banned since it will lead to unemployment for people but rather individual consumers of plastic bags should develop a positive attitude in disposing the plastic and, hence, the use of paper bags, such bags should be widely used over plastic bags.

UGCD-47

In present times, it seems impossible for humans to live without using plastic bags. It is an undeniable fact that, there are numerous benefits of plastic bags under various aspects, but the overuse of plastic bags has become a nightmare to the world. Environmental pollution, multi-purpose product, and climatic change are some benefits and drawbacks of plastic bags.



To begin, environmental pollution. One reason why plastic bags should be banned. Plastic bags are very light which can easily be carried by wind and water to various places on earth. They litter pathways, fences, houses and trees. All the plastic bags eventually end up in the oceans and water bodies. Some are blown into gutters which sometimes leads to flood as a result of gutters being choked, preventing proper drainage of water in gutters. A scenario is the 2015 June 3<sup>rd</sup> floods in Accra. Though many claimed there were other causes of the flood such as improper planning of settlement, choked gutters played the major role. The flood led to heavy traffic on the roads and commercial activities came to a halt. Finally, both humans and animals depend on the environment for survival. Hence a ban on plastic bags could reduce environmental pollution.

However, plastic bags are multi-purpose products; A reason why plastic bags should not be banned. Plastic bags were designed to satisfy human needs. They have wide range of usability in every day life. For instance, plastic bags are used in wrapping food, holding water, and other wet goods. This is widely appreciated. At homes, plastic bags are used as protective lining for rubbish bins. Finally, the multi-purpose nature of plastic bags is very essential. One needs to remember that plastic bags were made for several purposes, the only problem is the improper disposal after use.

Lastly, plastics bags contribute to climate change. Another reason for plastic bags to be banned. Compounds and polymers used in plastic bags production such as polyethylene and polypropylene are obtained from natural gases and petroleum. The process of extracting fossil fuel and then processing it to produce plastics releases greenhouse gases in to the atmosphere. This has led to global warming as a result of the degradation of the ozone layer. An instance is the change in rainfall pattern causing reduction in agriculture production and reducing food security. Finally, the depletion of the ozone layer has contributed greatly to climatic changes in recent times.

In conclusion, it is necessary for stakeholders to take a critical look at the benefits, and drawbacks of plastic bags, some of which includes pollution of the environment, multi-purpose use of plastic bags and changes in climate, before deciding on a ban. Education is a major key needed to curb the improper disposal of plastic bags which is the main cause of many of the drawbacks of the use of plastic bags. Humans and animals need clean environment to survive and one major way to achieve is through education and law enforcement.

## UGCD-48

Plastic bags play a huge role in the lives of humans and the economy such as; in conveying or carrying goods, food stuff. Gone are the days when foods are been placed in leaves but due to evolution, there has been the introduction of plastic bags. These plastic bags have made life very easy for humans. The plastic bags help humans to store food as well as store water. The plastic bags also help in conveying foodstuff from one place to another. The plastic bags serve as a decoration for packaged goods.

Despite such unique advantages of plastics bags, they create waste and are also poisonous to the health of humans. There should be a concern on the use of plastic bags, Ban.

Firstly, the reason why plastics bags should be banned is to avoid the creation of waste . Since plastic bags when used and are unable to be recycled they turn to create waste because, plastic bags do not decay when buried in a pit so when this happens they are been kept as refuse which also waste the land as well and create more waste.

Secondly, The reason why plastic bags should be banned is because they are poisonous to the health of humans. Gone are the days foods are been served in leaves but due to advancement, now food is been served in plastic rubbers which is highly poisonous to the health of humans because the chemicals that go into the making of plastic bags can cause cancer which is very harmful to humans.

Finally, The reason why plastic bags should be banned is due to the littering of the environment. When people buy their food stuff and other items which are been placed in plastic bags, after using what they need in the plastic bags they sometimes fail to dispose it properly in dust bins which in turn create dirt in the environment and also a huge workload for those in charge of cleaning and taking care of the environment.

In summary, Plastic bags have caused a huge damage to the health of humans, creation of waste and littering of the environment. If the above points mentioned are been taken into consideration the world will be a better place.

#### UGCD-49

The urbanization, technical revolution and the ease of every process have led to the usage of plastic in such a way that plastics have become an inevitable component in our day to day life. Plastic bags have become a very common commodity that these are given for free during the purchases of goods. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. It has become very essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Instead of making our lives easy, these plastic bags are the root cause of various issues like environmental pollution, illness in humans and animals and closure of sewages.

These plastic bags that we rely on for our everyday purchases at stores cause deterioration of environment. The problem of using plastic bags is much more serious than it actually appears as they are perilous for the environment. Various studies report that these plastic bags entering into the water bodies are a major cause of water pollution. Also, these plastic bags make our land highly infertile by occupying the underground and avoiding the uptake of minerals by plants. Hence, we can conclude that these plastic bags are deteriorating our environment.

On a larger scale, plastic bags should be banned as they can be dreadful to wild and marine life as well. Animals often unknowingly consume plastic particles along with their food. These plastic bags are mistaken for eatables by birds and marine lives. The plastic which is consumed by these species, will then congest their digestive tracts, often leading to health problems. Sometimes, this could even lead to the deaths of these animals by suffocation.

The increase use of plastic bags makes the disposal of them a herculean task thereby clogging our waterways and drainage systems. As plastic is non-biodegradable, it takes almost 5000 years for degradation to take place. Waste plastic bags are the main reason for trapping the drains and sewers, especially during rains. This can result in a flood-like situation and disrupt the normal life and property.

Although plastic is becoming a big threat for all of us globally, this problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. We must understand that mere ban can never help to sort the hazardous effects of the plastic bags. This is because people do not look at the long term effect of these small, easy to carry bags they use in their everyday life. It is high time that we realize the importance of our precious environment and avoid things that can degrade our environment. It is proved that plastics are making the

lifecycle of plants, animals and of course the users of the plastic bags, the humans tougher. So, let us go green and avoid plastics for a safer environment and a healthier life.

#### UGCD-50

Plastic bags are currently the most widely used form of packaging. Manufactured from petroleum and natural gas, these polyethene bags are used commercially and domestically to transport and contain goods, equipment and waste. Although these products are undeniably essential, they pose a major threat to the environment. The production and use of plastic bags should be banned as they cause land degradation, air pollution and water pollution.

Plastic bags play a major role in the gradual destruction of the quality of the land. The indiscriminate disposal of carryout bags used convey goods chokes gutters, thus hindering the effective functioning of drainage systems. In the event of rain, water is unable to flow through drains and this results in flooding. When flooding occurs, the topsoil which contains the nutrients vital to plant growth are washed away. This renders the soil infertile and unable to yield bountiful crops. Apart from this, plastic bags, when in contact with heat, leach toxic chemicals into the soil. Crops produced from such soil expose living organisms to chronic diseases such as cancer. For this reason, plastic bags should be banned.

Furthermore, plastic bags pollute the atmosphere. As mentioned before, plastic bags are made from petroleum and natural gas. The process of extracting these materials from crude oil releases toxic substances such as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and xylene into the atmosphere. These pollutants emit radiations which gradually deplete the ozone layer and, in effect, cause climate change. Also, the incineration of nonbiodegradable bags at landfills releases toxins into the air which cause lung cancer and other respiratory problems. To reduce the risks of such maladies and further depletion of the ozone layer, plastic bags should be prohibited.

Lastly, plastic bags should be banned because of their endangerment to marine life. Living creatures in aquatic bodies are constantly put at risk as a result of the indiscriminate dumping of plastic waste into their habitats. Fishes, seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals get entangled in these plastic bags thereby causing suffocation. In addition, aquatic creatures that feed on jellyfish mistaken the polythene bags as prey and consume them. As these bags cannot be digested, they stay in the gut and give the animals a false sense of fullness which leads to starvation and eventual death. Therefore, in order to preserve marine life and the ecosystem, plastic bags must be banned.

In conclusion, the production and utilization of plastic bags should cease as they undoubtedly endanger the existence of life on earth. Policies and laws should, therefore, be enforced against the use of these non-biodegradable bags. Alternatively, reusable products such as jute bags, paper bags and cotton bags can be used in place of plastic bags to reduce the contamination of the land, water and atmosphere.

In recent years, the increase in use of plastic bags have had adverse effects on countries. Poor sanitation has been one of the main problems affecting the development rate of countries globally due to the use of plastic bags. Most problem caused by plastic bags can mostly be seen in developing countries. Ever since the use of plastic bags began to increase, there have been a whole lot of disadvantages, which I will like to discuss on why plastic bags should be banned.

To commence, one reason on why plastic bags should be banned is that, flooding can be caused when plastic bags are dumped into gutters. When plastic bags are dumped into gutters and other drainage systems, it prevents the free flow of water in them. Water in gutters then pile up making it choked. It piles up gradually in the gutters and when it rains, it causes over flow in the drainage systems and then the water begins to occupy roads because it has no chance of flowing in the gutters since it is choked. The water then gets into homes of people, causing damage to buildings, railways, roads and also causing damage to properties of people. It can also cause injuries and lead to the death of people.

Furthermore, improper disposal of plastic bags causes the outbreak of diseases. When plastic bags are disposed improperly, it serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. When the rain falls and get stuck in some of these plastic bags, the mosquitoes begin to dwell in such areas and lay their eggs on the stagnant water. They grow well in these areas since the condition in these areas favours them. There is an outbreak and increase in the number of malaria in surrounding areas since there are lots of mosquitoes growing within those areas which can lead to an increase in the number of deaths in these areas. There can be an outbreak of cholera too since the environment is not clean. Flies land on these disposed plastic bags and then settle on uncovered and cold foods. The flies then deposit filth on exposed foods of people. When they eat these contaminated foods, they contract the cholera disease. The outbreak of cholera too can cause an increase in the number of deaths of people in these societies if they do not get a proper medical attention.

To sum up, plastic bags disposed in seas and other sources of water causes fisherman to get a low catch when they go on fishing and other sources of water bodies also get contaminated. When fisherman go fishing on seas and they cast their net into the seas, a lot of plastic bags get stuck and occupy space in their nets which makes them capture a small number of fish. If there were to be no plastic bags in the sea, they will get high catch in the number of fish since there will no plastic to occupy space in their nets. Water bodies like rivers and streams which also contain plastic bags get contaminated since it is a primary and domestic source of water to some people. They use for domestic purposes such as washing, cooking and bathing. In conclusion, the introduction and increased use of plastic bags has done more harm than good globally and hence, there should be a ban on using them.

Plastic have become part and parcel of our daily life. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastic possess the lions share. If we merely look around us, we can find numerous items that have plastic content it. Being cheap and easy to carry, it has managed to creep into every household. Despite being aware of the health hazards cause by plastics, people continue to use it on a regular basic. Laura (2018) explains that a plastic bag is a major villain that poses a threat to the ecology in general and living things in particular. So it`s high time that we eradicate this deathly item from our environment, if we are unable to put a conscious effort to recycle it. In this essay, I would like to elaborate more on why there is the needful to ban the plastic use in our environment.

Plastics do not undergo the natural process of decomposition due to its non-bio degradable properties`, hence, it paves the way to severe environmental pollution, spoils the soil and its fertility. Extra issue occurs when the plastic bags interact with soil and diminish the fertility. It has a significant impact on the agricultural produce and yielding. During rain, these flow into water bodies causing water pollution. In spite of this, it wreaks havoc to aquatic species and marine wildlife. Marine species have found consuming plastic pieces by mistake as natural food and finally succumb to death.

Plastic bags littered haphazardly which dogs, cats, monkeys, and cows, feed upon. This in turn, can block their digestive system and ultimately vender them a slow death. Therefore, the use of plastic bags is quite hazardous to animals. Likewise, children, if exposed to plastic items are at high risks of unconsciousness. They seem to be quite attracted to the plastic bags of different colors shape, which is very hazardous.

Plastic bags mounted in heaps raises much public health issues. The dumping yards become the breeding ground of microorganisms that are sources of different life threatening diseases. These can also lead to the multiplication of mosquitoes, rats, etc. which are the carries of many epidemics. Plastic bags have proven to cause a visible depletion of natural resources. It is also found to enter into drainage system resulting severe blocks and cause flooding when it rain.

The use of plastic bags, in the end, seeks to contribute to climate change and global warming. The process of manufacturing plastics involves the emission of greenhouse gases. Hence, plastic bags are proven to cause the ecological imbalance that threatens the environment, which is our basic life supporting system.

In conclusion, plastic bags are banned in most of the countries globally. However, we must understand that mere bun can never help to sort the hazardous effects of the plastic bags. It is high time that we realize the importance of our precious environment and avoid things that can degrade our environment. It is proved that plastics and plastic materials like bags and toys are making the life cycle of plants, animals and of course, the users of the plastic bags. So let us go green and avoid plastics for a safer environment and healthier life.

## UGCD-53

In today's world, more than half of product packages are made of plastics in whatever shape or form they may take. An increase in the population of the world also means that more plastic bags are made to aid people carry their goods not all these bags are disposed of properly hence improper plastic disposal is becoming a raging menace which is adversely affecting the environment and as such it should be banned. The discussion below seeks to point out some cogent contentions as to why that should be the case.

One major point to note is that the burning of plastic bags is a leading cause of air pollution. Plastics contain certain chemicals which are toxic to the environment. When the plastic bags are burnt these toxic chemicals are released into the fumes which are inherently let out into the atmosphere. This tends to destroy the quality of air we breathe and end up giving us respiratory diseases and infections. The fumes from the burnt plastic bags by causing air pollution would have also ended up depleting the ozone layer which is supposed to protect us from the sun's direct UV light rays but because it is depleted we experience global warming.

Furthermore, plastics are also responsible for the displacement and death of human beings through flooding. Plastic bags are not disposed properly and as such pose a huge environmental threat. Plastic bags which are left to be lying around anyhow are whisked away by the air and end up finding the way in drainage systems which are important to allow for the flow of water when there is heavy downpour. But since these drains are choked by improperly disposed plastic bags when it rains heavily the water finds its own way and ends up entering people's homes, destroying their properties and causing their houses to be inhabitable, others who are unlucky end up being killed by these floods.

Moreover, plastic bags are a leading cause of ocean contamination and destruction of aquatic life. Certain waste disposal companies dump their waste into the sea and plastic bags are not biodegradable so therefore animals such as whales end up ingesting such materials and this leads to poisoning and infection which is highly likely to kill them. Also, smaller fish get trapped in plastic bags and this sometimes brings the fish afloat causing them to suffocate. The ocean is so contaminated by plastic bags that tons of plastic bags wash up on shore beaches every month.

Plastics are adversely affecting the environment and causing the endangerment of aquatic life while also displacing people from their homes. They have outlived their usefulness and as such the use thereof needs to be abolished and banned inherently, moreover there are alternative materials to plastic for making carrier bags which are environmentally friendly.

## UGCD-54

Plastic substances are mostly used in everyday life of people across the globe. Their use may include plastic bottles, bags, chairs and cutlery, just to mention a few. Plastic bags are basically used for packaging and transporting both consumer and non-consumer goods. In as much as plastics materials can be very useful, they can also be very harmful to human and animal lives, and can be a threat to the environment in general and should therefore be banned.

First and foremost, environmental pollution is one of the major reasons why regular use of plastic materials should be minimized and eventually banned. Most plastics are made of polypropylene from petroleum and natural gas. All these materials are non-renewable fossil fuel-based materials. Their extraction and production releases greenhouse gases which affect global climate change. These plastic materials have a slow decomposing rate.

Improper disposal of these plastic materials pollutes the environment. They become rubbish after usage and choke gutters and water bodies leaving the surroundings filthy. This creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes and flies. This usually can result in the spread of health problems like of malaria and cholera.

Secondly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Most plastic bags have chemicals such as PCBs [polychlorinated biphenyl] together with PAHs [polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons] which disrupts hormones when they are consumed. When these plastic waste gets into the sea, oceans, lagoons and other water bodies, they are consumed by marine animals. The deposit of these chemicals does not digest but rather passed on through the food chain/web with humans being the final consumer which affect their health [developing of cancer cells and other serious health problems could occur].

Lastly, plastic bags have high cleanup cost. As manufacturers of plastic bags keep producing them in large quantities, people equally use them. The pollution of the bags in the environment is never going to stop, which makes cleanup costly. This is because there will be need for regular cleanups to remove plastic bags.

To conclude, plastic materials are cheap and useful but also harmful to its users. They do not degrade completely and recycling plastic waste is difficult in most parts of the world because they do not have sophisticated machines to aid in the recycling process. Bad plastic waste management affects not only human and animal lives but the environment in general. Banning the use of plastic bags will help reduce the risks associated with its usage. Other alternatives such as the use of paper bags could be considered.

## UGCD-55

Imagine this current world without plastic bags, packaging items would have been very difficult. Plastics have been of great use since the 1960's. Plastic bags have made packaging of items very simple and portable. But due to many instances, plastic bags have so many adverse effects on the environment than positive effects on environment. As a matter of fact, plastic bags should be banned due to these reasons: recycling difficulties and high costs of clean-up, environmental pollution, the risk they cause to human health, and the fact that there are even better alternatives available.

To begin, one reason why plastic bags should be banned is that it is difficult to recycle and also cause intensive in cleaning up. In order to achieve the ultimate aim in the recycling of plastics, various towns and communities must be ready to cause- effectively dispose, collect, sort and compress plastics. Various recycling companies and business are not ready to avail themselves to accept these materials and process them into other useful products. As a result, the recycling of plastics has become a bottle-neck for individuals and the community at large.

Moreover, another reason why plastic should be banned is that, they cause environmental pollution. Environmental pollution is the contamination of the physical and biological parts of the earth or atmosphere to such an extent that environment is negatively affected. Plastic bags disturb the environment in a serious way. Unseemly disposals of plastic bags in the soil release toxic chemicals into the soil with results in affecting the living organisms in the soil. Due to this, planted crops are affected and hence affect humans as well.

Furthermore, one reason why plastic bags should be banned is that, they are harmful to human health. Plastics are usually obtained from the residue of crude oil refinery and petroleum jelly. This residue contains various chemical like phthalates and bisphenols such as Bisphenol A (BPA). Some of these chemicals increases the risk of obesity, infertility, and in some cases cause brain development problems and mammary cancer. As a result, the health and immune system of individuals who are largely exposed to plastics become compromised and this suggests why the enormous use of plastics should be banned.

In addition, another reason why plastic bags should be banned is that, there are better alternatives available. With reference to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), more than five trillion plastics are consumed each year, leading to their improper disposal resulting in the clogging of water ways, choking aquatic lives, and providing a breeding ground for malaria carrying mosquitoes. As a result, various alternatives like paper, compostable, jute and cotton are far better and safer than plastic bags since they do cost much and also not pose much health risks to humans.

In short, plastics do more harm than good to us and these reasons like recycling problems, environmental pollution, human health dangers, and better alternatives available. Banning of plastic bags is a good initiative to be promoted.

#### UGCD-56

In the daily lives of people, they often use plastic bags which has fast forward become a part of human culture. For instance it is used to contain food items, package and transport products. However, plastic bags do not break down easily. Rather, they stay in the soil for a long period of time. This essay seeks to discuss reasons why the use of plastic bags should be banned.

Firstly, the use of plastic bags contribute to the increase in littering of the environment. The improper disposal of plastic bags litters the environment. This makes the environment unclean and unhealthy as human and animal habitat. Also, it puts burden on the government to initiate ways of keeping the environment clean by ensuring waste management. Plastic bags usually form part of the plenty waste products rendering the environment dirty and unhealthy.

Also, the use of plastic bags contaminates water bodies and habitats for marine creatures. Habitats for fishes and other aquatic organisms are damaged due to the usage of plastic bags. Some of the animals in water bodies swallow the plastic bags and die in the water bodies making it unsafe for human use. These animals are wasted whereas they could have been consumed or used for more profitable gains. The use of plastic bags destructs water bodies and their produce.

Again, overuse and improper disposal of plastic bags blocks gutters and other waterways. The waste plastic bags can block gutters and water passage which leads to flooding. Water is not able to flow freely, especially when it rains. Flooding then goes a long way to result in loss of lives and properties. It also leaves a lot of people homeless. Improper disposal of water causes stagnation of flowing waters resulting in flooding and its associate problems.

Furthermore, plastic bags that are left anyhow in the environment affects agriculture. Because plastic bags do not easily decay, they mix with the soil. Crop roots are not able to penetrate into the soil



hence retarding their growth. Even after a long period when the plastic bags have finally broken down, the toxins in it makes the soil infertile. It affects agriculture and leaves farmers worried, whiles reducing their income from farm produce as well.

In conclusion, plastic bags are a threat to humans and their environment. Plastic bags are not degradable: they stay very long in soils and other earth surfaces due to their composition; they create a lot of filth in the environment and also block waterways. Therefore, the usage of plastic bags should be banned in order to protect the environment and the health of people. Instead of the continuous usage of plastic bags, paper bags can be produced to replace them.

#### UGCD-57

Plastic is a chemical compound formed from the combination of two or more monomers and it possesses certain properties that enable it to be moulded into different shapes and sizes. Some products formed from it include plastic bags, bottles, buckets, and food wrap. Since the invention of plastic bags in the 1960s, it has become a serious commercial proposition in the world today. Despite the noticeable benefits derived from plastics, it has caused harm to wildlife and marine life, affected human health, and clogged sewage systems.

First of all, plastic bags has caused harm to wildlife and marine life. Birds, animals, and marine life such as sea turtles and fish often mistake the plastic bag and other plastic materials for food and consume them. Most often than not, when they consume these materials, their digestive system becomes congested leading to the development of health infections. Again, small animals such as lizards may be trapped by it leading to death as a result of suffocation.

Furthermore, plastics can pose a danger to human health. Most plastics contain certain chemicals that can disrupt the normal functioning of hormones in the body. Fragments of it in the oceans like plastic bags have some pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyl together with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons which are hormone-disrupting.

Lastly, it has caused sewage systems to be clogged. In some urban areas where wildlife is relatively scarce, plastic bags cause significant environmental harm. Runoff water collects and carries discarded plastic bags and ultimately washes them into storm sewers which clump with other debris blocking the flow of water. This prevents runoff water from properly draining and usually results in flooding. For example, on 3rd June 2015 marked a black day in the history of Ghana. One hundred and fifty-four people died and hundreds suffered severe burns resulting in permanent physical disabilities which were caused by the floods. It was attributed to blockages in Accra's main storm drains, resulting from the accumulation of plastic products dumped into them

To conclude, plastic bags are everywhere in our environment as people increasingly rely on it to package items mostly. When we go to purchase our groceries, we use plastic bags because they are convenient. However, the convenience of these plastic bags come at a very high cost to the environment and negatively affects human health. It is about time measures such as recycling of used plastic bags, increasing awareness and behavioural change, and also reducing the usage of plastics products must be adhered to.

#### UGCD-58

Plastic bags have been a prominent aspect of people's everyday lives since they were introduced to it in the 1950s. These small yet effective bags have been a mutual product of retailers all around the world and have been used to store purchased items by customers, with these plastic bags having its own identity (as customized by each brand). The everyday user does not acknowledge that these small, harmful bags have actually caused many detrimental effects on our environment, and many users

struggle to give a chance for self-taken precautions to minimize plastic bags usage as a product of a narcissistic view of life.

Plastic bags aren't only thrown on the streets and landfill sites by people, but they are found on the shores of our beaches most times. These bags play a vast role in death amongst sea mammals in our marine environment. Sea turtles, Fishes, and many more creatures in the ocean are always either found tangled in plastic bags or being suffocated by them.

Some plastic bags take years to break down while others break down in small pieces which end up being consumed by our sea creatures. These creatures mistake floating plastic bags for food. For example, sea turtles sometimes misinterpret plastic bags as jellyfish, which are their only source of food and that could lead to digestion issues for them. Research also shows that half of the sea turtles worldwide have ingested plastics. And if our sea animals are consuming these toxins, which are broken down into dangerous products, that means people who take in seafood will be affected and that could lead to several health complications.

Furthermore, these plastics sometimes decompose in the land which means the toxins in the bags will decompose into our soil, making our soil infertile, causing soil pollution. Plastics are not easily degradable, but they render the soil infertile, therefore, plants are not able to absorb the nutrients that they usually get from the soil to produce food for animals and human beings.

Moreover, plastic pollution also contributes to global warming. When they are exposed to sunlight they melt and in the process of melting they produce greenhouse gases that affect our ozone layer. Also, gutters are always clogged and that leads to flooding of cities and towns.

In conclusion, plastic bags are a detriment to humans, animal lives, and the environments that we inhabit. A plastic bag ban must take place as this precaution to preventing more reverse harm to the environment and humankind/wildlife. In the end, a ban will generate a much healthier environment and healthy marine life.

## UGCD-59

Plastic bag, poly bag, or pouch is a type of container made thin, flexible, plastic film, nonwoven fabric that are used for containing and transporting goods such as food produce, powders, ice, magazines, chemicals, wastes and many more. It is the common form of packaging. This one stop bag which comes as a solution to carrying liquids, commodities to garments, plastic bags have been a rage since the beginning of time. In 1933, after nearly 30 years of research, a Swedish company Celloplast patented the polyethylene bag which was designed by Sten Gustaf Thulin. Thus, putting an end to the organic counterparts; cloth, paper and glass bottles for liquid storage. After this unique discovery, the urbanization, technical revolution and the ease of every process have led to the usage this plastic in such a way that plastics have become an inevitable component in our day to day life. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastic possess the lion's share. If we merely take a look around us, we can find umpteen items with plastic content in it. Being cheap and easy to carry around, it has managed to creep into every household. But, the actual scenario is, instead of making our lives easy, these plastic bags are the root

cause of various issues like environmental damage and pollution, non-renewable and non-biodegradable and also a threat to human and animal life

One major effect of these plastic bags is the environmental damage and pollution. Plastic bags are extremely durable. In case you are thinking of this as an advantage, just bring to mind an image of the huge landfill that you visited on the city outskirts, the other day. In most probability, majority of the rubbish present there will comprise of plastic bags only. In other words, plastic bags have led to a great increase in the pollution levels. Since plastic bags are not bio-degradable, the only way to get rid of them is to burn them up. Though lighting a match to them is easy, it has more than its fair share of disadvantages. The biggest of them is that smoldering plastics can release toxic fumes into the environment, in turn taking the air pollution to much higher levels. Plastic bags have been known to cause a lot of environmental damage. A single plastic bag can take up to 1000 years, to decay completely. This makes the bags stay in environments longer, in turn leading to great build-up on the natural landscape (much more than degradable materials like paper). In other words, the more plastic bags you use, the greater the chances of environmental damage.

Another major reason why plastic bag should be banned is that it is non-renewable and also non-biodegradable. The reason behind this is that they are made of petrochemicals, a non-renewable source of energy. They can be recycled, but not as easily as paper bags. Plastic bags can last for as much as hundreds of years. In other words, long after you are no more, the plastic bag used by you will be in existence. Estimates of the number of plastic bags used around the world each year vary in range from 100 million to a trillion according to a New York Times article. Since only a small portion of these bags is recycled, many plastic bags are left to enter the waste stream. The bags will likely take about 1,000 years to decompose. Because such a large number of bags are produced and it takes a long time for them to decompose, the plastic bags that are thrown away create a lot of waste in the landfills on top of the trash that may be inside of them. Plastics live forever. All of the plastics bags and plastics which was ever produced from the beginning of time still live in some form in this planet. Out of the total plastic waste only 18% is recycled. The rest are found clogging the drains, polluting the soil, land and water. Plastic is invincible, it doesn't allow decay and it doesn't decay. Every time a person throws away a straw or disposes a water bottle after drinking a billion kilograms of it just gets accumulated. Plastics when burnt give out very harmful gases such as hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, dioxins, furans and heavy metals, as well as particulates. There is no such thing as you can destroy plastic bags but to prevent it from usage would be one of the best options.

Moreover, plastic bag imposes a great threat on human and animal lives. It is no wonder that plastics would affect the living things in this planet. Every plastic bag which looks enticing, emulates different toxic elements, making the food product harmful. Sometimes these turn out to be carcinogenic as well. Researchers have discovered that the plastic molecules entering the food packets are true. Used

plastic bags that are thrown up on the roads are consumed by many animals such as cows, goats since they think it as eatables. This can result in the animals choking up and prove to be fatal. In other cases, it gets accumulated in the animal's body inducing illness and death eventually. Turtles and birds die have been reported to die every year, mainly because of plastic in their environment. Plastic bags not only have adverse effects on our natural habitats, but have also been found to be responsible for the death of many animals, mainly on account of the suffocation encountered on eating them. Not only animals, infants and young children have also been reported to have lost their life, on account of plastic bags. Since plastic bags are thin and airtight as well, children often end up blocking their mouths and nostrils with them. In case they are not being monitored by an adult, this leads to suffocation and, in some cases, even death.

In short, despite all the advantages of plastic bags to its disadvantages affect all kind of live forms and advice Man should return to basics. Usage of cloth, paper and jute bags was how the baby boomers lived in this world. We are also aware that when man returns to making paper bags, forests may be cut down. Efficient choices such as beneficial lifestyle choices like a reusable bag, carrying your water bottles, drinking the juice from your cups rather than using a straw etc. can help the society be sustainable when they banned plastic bags. Wiser choices make a healthier environment. Plastic bags are banned in most of the countries globally. However, we must understand that mere ban can never help to sort the hazardous effects of the plastic bags. It is high time that we realize the importance of our precious environment and avoid things that can degrade our environment. It is proved that plastics and plastic made materials like bags and toys are making the lifecycle of plants, animals and of course, the users of the plastic bags, the humans tougher. So, let's go green and avoid plastics for a safer environment and a healthier life.

#### UGCD-60

Plastic bags are made from a substance called crude oil and made into lighter material. Plastic bags are used by people to carry goods such as food and clothes. There are used globally by many stores in the trading of goods. Despite creating convenience for shoppers, plastic bags have proven to be very harmful to the environment and should be banned. There are benefits are drawbacks to the ban of plastic bags.

Firstly, plastic bags can be harmful to aquatic life. Rather than decomposing, plastic bags break down in to tiny pieces in the ocean. Aquatic life mistaken these tiny pieces as food and digest them. The materials in these in tiny pieces of plastic bags are toxic material. When fishes continuously consume these tiny pieces, they accumulate in its digestive system and eventually causes the fish to die. Aquatic life can also get entangled in plastic bags which mostly leads to suffocation and starvation. Plastic bags should be banned because it is hazardous to aquatic life.

Secondly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Plastic bags are the main causes of choked water drainage systems in cities globally. Choked water drainages exposes people to water borne diseases and causes land pollution. With the popularity of plastics humans may unknowingly be taking tiny pieces of

plastic. These micro plastics may disrupt the human digestive. Plastic bags should be banned because they are baleful to human health.

Furthermore, plastic bags are expensive to buy and to clean after usage. The cost of the plastic bag is charged indirectly in the price of the goods the customers buys, which makes their goods more expensive. Cleaners must be hired to unclog water drainage systems, choked with plastic bags, which further increases the cost of using plastic bags. Using plastic bags come at a high-cost.

However, plastic bags are reusable. In comparison to paper bags, plastic bags can be used to contain more goods and cannot tear very easily. Due to its durability it can be used more than once. After using it carry bought items it can be used to carry garbage or used to carry storage.

Moreover, the use of plastic bags prevents less trees from being cut down. Plastic bags were made as an alternative to paper bags. Paper bags are made with wood which is received from a tree. Plastic bags were created to reduce the number of trees been cut down to create paper bags. If plastic bags are used as an alternative to paper bags less trees will be cut down.

In conclusion, plastic bags should be banned because they are deleterious to both human and aquatic life. They should also be banned because they are costly. However, the use of plastic bags saves trees from been cut for the manufacture of paper bags. Plastic bags are also advantageously reusable.

#### UGCD-61

Plastic bags; some say are among the major pioneers of a possible environmental apocalypse. The good intention behind it's invention rather turned out cataclysmal. Sten Gustaf Thulin, a Swedish national invented plastic bag with the hope of providing a more greener solution to the then 'paper bag' menace which saw a devastating increase in tree felling. Although his invention contained the problem for some time, it was not long until it turned from a solution to a problem. Therefore, there has been a need to put in place measures to prevent the danger it poses to our planet. This brings to light the banning of plastic bags. The topic of banning of plastic bag has sparked off debates on its effects through the scope of economic and environmental cost.

To begin, since the middle of the 1960s when plastic bags were patented by a company called Celloplast, the industry has moved on to flourish, employing over 1 million people in the United States of America alone([polymerdatabase.com](http://polymerdatabase.com)). The industry is said to be worth \$1.2 trillion and its market is growing at about 3% year on year(The Business Research Company). In effect, banning plastic bags will adversely affect the economy of a country and will leave millions of people unemployed. Therefore recycling rather than a ban of plastic bags will save the economy trillions of dollars.

In spite of the overwhelming impact it has on economies, environmental experts argue that the cost and energy consumed by recycling and the irreversible damage of nonbiodegradable plastic causes our environment is even more expensive. According to an article published by Julian Ambrose in The Guardian on 13th October, 2019, the battle to reduce plastic waste could become a quarter of a billion dollars more expensive every year as the cost of recycled plastic soars. The alternative would rather be costly.

Furthermore, environmental cost is the other basis of argument on whether plastic bags should be banned or not. Plastic is a nonbiodegradable material and it takes between 20 to 1,000 years to decompose depending on its thickness. Over a trillion pieces are used worldwide every year according to the United Nations Environmental Agency(UNEA) and out of this number, a billion pieces end up on our streets and in the oceans. Also 46,000 bits of plastic float in every square mile of the sea(UNEA). The bits that find their way into the sea breakdown into smaller microplastics which can harm aquatic life. All these data gives a clear picture of how devastating plastic pollution is to our environment and banning seems to be a tangible

On the other hand, banning plastic bags takes us back to the use of paper bags. Critics argue that although paper bags are degradable, their impact on climate change is alarming. Substituting plastic with paper bags will mean more tree felling and as a result, there will be fewer plants to utilize the world's growing carbon emissions and eventually a global warming.

In summary, both positions on the banning of plastic bags through the economic and environmental cost perspectives have reasonable and solid assertions. This notwithstanding does not supersede the fact that a decision needs to be taken to reduce plastic pollution. The most potent and fair measure is to reuse whether plastic or paper bags. Trees will be saved, littering would be minimal and pollution would reduce drastically. This measure would yield better results.

## UGCD-62

Plastics are synthetic materials which are made from a wide range of organic polymers like polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride and nylon that are malleable and therefore can be molded to any shape while soft. There are different products derived from the production of plastic bags consisting of trash bags, packaging materials, kitchen wares and counter tops which are of positive use in our daily life. In spite of that, plastic bags tend to disrupt our environment in a serious way as well as affecting the living organism negatively in the ecosystem. Therefore, plastic bags should be banned.

One major effect of plastic bags is that it pollutes our land and water. Research has found out that China is one of the countries which is mostly polluted with plastic bags. This is because all the plastic bags are feathery and therefore can travel a long distance when they are not properly disposed of. They litter our environment and tend to disrupt our serene and beautiful environment, get caught in fences, dangle from trees, form flotillas of waste in waterways and eventually make their way into the world's ocean.

Another effect of plastic bags is that they are harmful to wildlife and marine life. Plastic bags are mostly eaten as food by mammals, birds and aquatic life like, fish, sea otters and octopus. It contains chemicals like bisphenol that can harm and affect the animals, when it gets to the stomach it can prevent food digestion and can lead to a very slow and painful death since it takes up to a thousand years to break down, some ocean animals die and decay after ingesting the plastic bags. The plastic is then released back into the marine environment killing other creatures in the marine environment.

Moreover, plastic bags affect the ecosystem by emitting radiation. New research suggests that plastic bags can emit greenhouse gases such as methane and ethylene which accumulate in the atmosphere to contribute largely to global emission. This radiation can affect the human by causing skin cancer when an individual is exposed to the sun. Furthermore, it triggers people with respiratory disease like lung cancer, pneumonia and pleural effusion and emphysema.

To conclude, making the world a better place for every living creature a ban must be put in place on the usage of plastic bags to create a serene and beautiful environment as well as prolong the life and improve the health of humans and animals in the entire ecosystem.

#### UGCD-63

Plastic bags are one of the convenient, useful and cheap things around which are quite helpful in our daily activities like grocery shopping where they aid in carrying stuff. They are made from Plastic which is a non-biodegradable substance that is very harmful thereby, contrasting its usefulness to us. These plastic bags have got some negative impacts which poses as a threat to humans and the environment at large.

The process of production of these plastic bags is one of the many reasons why there is a need to ban it. It is believed that toxic chemical substances are emitted into the air during its production hence polluting the air and making it very harmful to the health of humans. According to research, when these chemicals gets into our systems, it causes some respiratory diseases which may go a long way to cause death. Also, burning waste plastic bags releases harmful smoke which pollutes the air and cause health issues.

Another reason for its ban is that, improper disposal of these waste plastic bags deteriorates the environment and leads to drainage problems. When these plastics litter around, they tend to get choked in gutters and drains which leads to flooding because when it rains, the water is not able to flow thereby getting accumulated and causing flooding. And if the water is able to flow, it carries these plastic bags and empties them into the sea or ocean where it causes harm to the marine creatures since they may consume it as part of their food.

Also, when these waste bags are left to litter around and they get into the soil, they render the soil infertile. This is because as they remain in the soil, they do not degrade but rather they break down into smaller pieces where chemicals are released, killing the soil animals that enhances soil nutrients in the process.

Furthermore, plastic bags pose as choke hazards for people most especially for children. It is estimated that each year, twenty kids on the average suffocate from plastic bags. When they play with them and get entangled with them, especially in the cases of infants, they suffocate which leads to their untimely death.

Although plastic bags are posing as a big threat to all of us, its negative effects are still being overlooked because people are looking at how convenient and useful it is to us. But it is high time we advise ourselves and help implement this ban for our own wellbeing.

#### UGCD-64

One of the major problems facing Ghana today is the poor management of plastic bags. Plastic bags such as polythene materials used in packaging, pure water sachets, black polythene bags and rubber wrappers, have become a major source of menace to the environment, ecological and human health.

Plastic bags contribute significantly to the depletion of valuable resource, making the prices of petroleum products to rise every passing day due to its high demand. Production of plastics takes 60-100 million barrels of oil from the world's petroleum reserves.

Also, according to studies, hot meals that are eaten in plastic bags result in the development of ulcers, asthma, obesity, lung problems and certain cancers. This is because plastic bags have some chemicals that will mix with the meal when hot. One of these chemicals is Bisphenol-A (BPA), which acts in the same way as oestrogen. In the long run, these chemicals may interfere with hormonal balance in women and affect reproduction. Breast cancer in animals have been linked BPA. This chemical has also been associated with thyroid issues and neurologic disorders in humans. According to the World Health Organization, when pregnant women are exposed to high concentrations of Phthalates and BPA, which are chemical compounds found in plastic, they may give birth to children with lung problems. These children may also be at high risk of developing asthma later in life.

In addition, plastic bags accumulations are one of the most common causes of choking of drainage systems. Developing countries are the most affected with this problem. A good example of this impact is the June 3<sup>rd</sup> flood in Greater Accra Region of Ghana which claimed several lives and properties.

Moreover, pollution from plastic materials, such as plastic bags, affect the natural order of feeding. This is because its harmful effects don't spare any animal or plant in the food chain, ranging from large terrestrial animals to microscopic plankton. Plastic deposited into waterbodies may affect these organisms directly when they ingest plastic toxins. It may also affect them indirectly when they lack food to eat after plastics have killed the organisms down in the food chain. By 2050, the oceans will have more waste plastics than fish.

Finally, a lot of water is used to the manufacture of plastic bags. Plastic bags don't only pollute our water sources, they also take a lot of water from these sources during their production. You'll need about 22 gallons of water to produce one pound of plastic. There's no need to waste so much water manufacturing harmful plastics.

In conclusion, government can use their power and authority to control plastic pollution by forming various institutions that can manage and protect the ecosystems. For example, the Canadian federal government established an institution to safeguard marine areas. In addition, all concerned citizens should advocate for the ban of plastics simply because it is doing us more harm than good regardless of what the plastic businessmen say.

#### UGCD-65

The urbanization technical revolution in the ease of every process have led to the usage of plastic in such a way that plastics have become an inevitable component in our day-to-day life. Plastic bags have become a very common commodity that these are given for free during their purchases are the grocery



shops or vegetable shops but, the actual scenario is instead of making our lives easy these plastic bugs are the root causes of various issues like environmental pollution illness in the human animals etc.

Plastics do not decompose in the soil. It has non-biodegradable properties, hence, it paves the way too severe environmental pollution spoils the soil at its fertility.

Plastic causes health problems when burnt. Research suggests that over 1 trillion plastic bags are being used worldwide every year. The issue is regarding its disposal. These wastes accumulates in heaps and become a great menace of the ecosystem. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they emit toxic gases into the atmosphere, which when inhaled causes severe health issues such as asthma.

Plastics are dangerous to animals. Animals carelessly are fed upon by dogs, cats, monkeys, cows etc. This in turn can block their digestive system and ultimately rendered them a slow death. So the use of plastic is quite dangerous to animals. Moreover, children, if exposed to plastic items are at high risk of suffocation. They seem to be quite attracted to their plastic bags of different colors and shape which is quite hazardous.

Man should return to plastics usage of cloth paper and use bags was how the baby boomers lived in this world. We were also aware that when man returns to making paper bags, forest may be cut down. Efficient choices such as beneficial lifestyle choices like a reusable bag, carrying your water bottles, drinking the juice from your cups rather than using a straw etc, can help the society be sustainable. Bangladesh insured and you jute industry which thrived when they banned plastic bags. Wiser choice make a healthier environment.

Also plastic bags clog waste drainage. As a result, water gets stagnant and breeds insects such as mosquitoes which spread malaria and other diseases one can think of this also affect the water in the community.

Similarly, the retailers must be fined for selling plastic bags. Those carrying plastic bags should likewise be fined. Another strategy which can be used in the good quality plastic bags which are made available in the market must be made changeable.

There is no doubt that plastic bags have made our lives simpler from multiple points of view. We see them blowing around on the roads and they regularly wind up in streams and seas. These bags can be unsafe through creatures, for example, turtles, that digest them or choke by them, particularly in marine conditions where plastic bags look like jellyfish another eatable things.

To conclude plastic bags must be banned. This is because if they are banned it will make the environment safe for living.

## UGCD-66

Plastic bags are commonly used far and wide in everyday life. Their uses range from packaging and transport of items such as food to wrapping of waste for disposal. These bags were produced in the 1970s as an alternative to paper bags due to their light weight, grip strength and most importantly, their hygienic nature. Today, plastic bags have become the world's most abundant litter both on land and in sea. Despite their numerous advantages, these sacs cause environmental pollution, disrupt the ecosystem and have dangerous health implications. Thus, use of these bags must be prohibited promptly.

Plastic bags cause environmental pollution. They are the most prevalent type of litter in inhabited areas. Due to their light weight, they are easily blown by wind even from dustbins onto the streets, drainage systems, and water bodies. Any bit of valise or satchel that falls on the surface of the earth unlike other biodegradable objects, takes centuries to finally decay. Since these wastes hardly rot, they are seen

hovering like flowers all over the surface of the soil and hipping up into tons of filth. They pile up and clog drainage systems, leaving water with no passage way and at the end cause flooding and dirt across the country during the rainy seasons.

Furthermore, plastic bags pose threat to human health. They choke drainage systems resulting in stagnant water serving as breeding grounds for mosquitoes which cause malaria. Even worse, the pile of filth caused by sacks run into streams through runoff water causing water borne diseases such as cholera to its users. The plastic bags themselves are made up of hazardous substances such as Bisphenol A and poly-fluorinated chemicals which are known to cause cancer, respiratory diseases such as difficulty in breathing and lung disfunctions, and eye irritations. Nevertheless, the inhalation of gases such as carbon dioxide and vinyl chloride emitted by decaying bags have deadly consequences.

Moreover, plastic bags disrupt the ecosystem. When these sacks finally decay after centuries, they release harmful chemicals which kill soil-nourishing microorganisms that plants depend on for survival. Submerged bags tend to clog soil pores preventing water from reaching plant roots and results in unhealthy growth of plants. The undecayed sac debris get caught on plants and get swallowed by grazing animals such as cows and goats thus, causing death. In water bodies, the huge pile of plastic wastes is gradually taking the place of fishes. These aquatic animals become entangled in and ingest plastic debris causing suffocation, starvation and drowning.

In conclusion, though plastic bags have a wide range of convenient uses, the enormity of damage and depletion it is causing to the environment, ecosystem and human health is appalling. These, if not banned will have dying consequences not only on today's generation but on posterity as well. It is therefore necessary to adopt bio-friendly alternatives such as cardboards, glass containers, reusable cotton tote, wooden or silk mesh shopping bags and natural fiber cloth bags to replace these sacs. These alternatives are reusable, easily degradable and will be an appropriate replacement for plastic bags.

## UGCD-67

Plastic bags are everywhere in our environment. When we go to buy our foodstuff and other items, we use plastic bags because they are convenient and very easy to handle. In fact, in our modern lives, it has become part of us. However, the ease of using these plastic bags come at a very high cost to the environment and negatively affects humans in so many ways. Several cities globally have begun banning the use of plastic bags due to its harmful nature, such as causing health problems for humans and animals, polluting our land and water bodies, bringing about seals in our drainage systems, and disrupting the beauty of our environment

To begin, most plastic bags disposed of in our water bodies cause health problems for both humans and animals. Most aquatic animals mistake plastic bags for food and consume such things, humans and other animals also eat such aquatic animals thereby consuming the plastic particles. Since plastic contains a lot of chemicals results in various and serious forms of diseases to the consumers which can even shorten their lifespan.

In addition, plastic bags pollute our land and water bodies. Looking around us currently, we get to know that plastic is the common form of litter nowadays due to improper disposal of such bags. These plastic bags, requiring a very long time to decade end up in our soils and water bodies releasing toxic waste into them, this ends up causing infertility of the soil and making our freshwater and soil very toxic and harmful for living organisms present.

Moreover, improper disposal of plastic bags causes seals in most of our sewage systems. These bags block the flow of drains from our drainage systems preventing runoff water from flowing freely. This later in an event of rain can lead to flooding in such areas destroying the lives of people and property.

Finally, plastic bags tend to disrupt the beauty of the environment. Most of our cities are not clean and full of litter due to the common use of plastic bags. People, after using these bags just throw away wherever they want without thinking about the final destination of these bags. Such litter gets tangled in

trees and fences along roads, floating in the water, lying on the ground, surrounding garbage bins, and washed off on beaches and other areas on our land tarnishing the beautiful image of the country.

In conclusion, we can see several demerits of plastic bags ranging from causing health problems for humans and animals, polluting our land and water bodies, bringing about seals in our drainage systems leading to floods, and disrupting the beauty of our environment. With this being one of the various substances in the environment, it, therefore, has to be banned from use to ensure the peaceful healthy living of all living organisms.

#### UGCD-68

Plastics are very thin flexible, and plastic film used for making a lot of things including plastic bags. Plastic bags are a type of packaging made of a very thin flexible, and plastic film used for containing and transporting food, waste and other goods. This package comes in different colours and sizes. Plastic bags help in conveying things but there are problems also associated with them despite the advantages. Water pollutions, environmental pollutions and air pollutions are some of the problems associated with plastic bags.

To commence, plastic bags cause a lot of water pollution. Plastic bags are more often than not improperly disposed off and due to this improper waste management or disposing off, they end up on most streets and drainage systems causing water pollution. At first sight, improperly disposed plastic bags look harmless though they are unsanitary. But when there is a downpour of rain, the water rushes through the drainage systems and due to the presence of the plastic bags, there is blockage which makes the water unable to flow causing flood. If per chance the stagnant water is able to flow, it carries a long all of the improperly disposed plastic bags into different water bodies and endanger aquatic habitation. Not only does this endanger aquatic inhabitants, it also pollutes the water which serves as drinking water and source of food to human.

Again, plastic bags cause air pollution in an indirect way due to burning or incinerating to decompose the plastic bags. Burning is done because the plastic films used in making the plastic bags are non-biodegradable hence very difficult to decompose with the help microorganisms in the soil. During the burning to either decompose or even make new plastic bags, harmful gases are released into the atmosphere causing air pollution. Air pollution makes breathing difficult and can also cause respiratory diseases.

Lastly, plastic films used for plastic bags since they are non-biodegradable meaning they can't be decomposed remain in the earth or soil for thousands of years. The chemicals used in making plastic bags make the lifespan of plastic bags long or durational resulting in environmental degradation or pollution when they are thrown away. Plastic bags found in the soil put the life of many living things in the soil in danger. This is because the undecomposed plastic bags block air from the atmosphere from entering the soil.

To sum up, plastic bags should be banned in societies because they cause pollutions such as environmental degradation, water pollution and also air pollution. These pollutions occur as a result of improper decomposing and the kind of chemicals used in the producing.

#### UGCD-69

Plastic bags are made from crude oil which is made into hard and soft materials. They are used for containing and transporting goods which serve as a common form of packing. Currently, plastic bags are now part of our daily consumption habits. It revolves around us.

The ban on plastic bags does not necessarily mean that its use will cease. The ban is only to control individual use of plastic bags because people are irresponsible when it comes to disposal thus causing environmental pollution. Plastic bags should be banned due to the following reasons;

First, plastic bags pollute our land and water. Around our environment, plastic bags are everywhere and it is the most common litter around us. Plastic bags float in our water bodies, surrounding our garbage bins and washes off on beaches. These problems are caused because, the plastic bags are light thus it is easy to be carried by wind which travels long distance around our environment to pollute water bodies and nature as well. Pollution of water bodies by the use of plastic bags lead to flooding due to the clogged storm drains. Plant on the land are not protected from the damage caused by the plastic bags. When the plastic bags breakdown into the soil, it's releases harmful chemicals that causes damage to microorganism that plant are dependent up for survival.

Second, it's help spread awareness. When plastic bags are banned and we begin to keep our environment clean, it enable other countries globally to realize the importance of environmental protection. People begin to realize that, banning plastic bags is for a purpose and they can take up such important information. They can eventually begin to understand that plastic causes some negative impact on the environment and humans as well. Therefore there is the need to ban plastic bags to protect the environment and human against any negative effect around them.

Moreover, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Researchers have made it clear that, tiny plastic have been found in human feces. There are some chemicals from the plastic bags which can disturb the normal functioning of hormones in the body. Most plastic pieces in the oceans like the plastic bags have some pollutants in them. Once some animals eat those chemicals, they move through the food web then later into the humans who consume those animals such as the fishes and other animals. The chemicals materials bio-accumulate in the sea animals and the fishes system as they are exposed to them in the water bodies.

To conclude, plastic bags are banned in most countries globally. Therefore we must understand that mere ban can never help to sort the hazardous effects of plastic bags. It's time we realize the importance of our precious environment and avoid things that can degrade our environment. It is proved that plastic are plastic made materials. Therefore the above mentioned are the reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

## UGCD-70

Over the last fifty years, plastic bags have dominated our world and changed our way of living. From containing of groceries, water, waste and transporting them, plastic bags have been very useful in our daily activities. Plastic bags are widespread in all aspects of life because of its convenience, portability and affordability. Plastic bags are produced from the burning of fossil-fuel. They form a long hydrocarbon chain and they are synthetic polymers. Plastic bags can be easily shaped, usually by the application of heat and pressure. Despite its many benefits, plastic bags have undeniable adverse impact on the environment. In these recent years, arguments have been raised on whether plastic bags should be banned or not. These are three reasons why plastic bags must be banned.

To begin, plastic bags turns to cause floods especially in the urban areas. People in the urban areas happen to use plastic bags in their endeavours. Due to its light weight, plastic bags hover in the air when it has not been properly disposed. They land on the streets and drainage ways. During heavy rains, these plastic bags chokes the drainage ways and stops the water from flowing out and this leads to flooding. If plastic bags are banned, it will go a long way of helping to reduce floods in our environment.

Another reason why plastic bags must be banned is the effect it has on marine life. Sea turtles and fishes often mistake the plastic bags and other plastic materials for food and consume them. Smaller

particles known as microplastics that break off and disperse are consumed by these marine animals. Once they consume these plastic materials, their digestive system gets congested leading to the development of health infections and even death when there is suffocation. They may also be easily trapped inside the plastics. Plankton, which serves as food for fishes ingest greater quantities of microplastics. Consequently, plastic bags cause harm to the marine life and must be banned.

In addition, plastic bags pose a threat to human health. Plastic bags emit toxic fumes when burnt. Most of these toxic fumes are greenhouse gases such as methane, carbon dioxide and ethylene which when inhaled by humans, leads to health complications such as lung cancer, asthma and bronchitis. Food vendors in this country mostly package their foods in plastic bags. When the food is very hot, chemicals such as propylene melt into the food. Persistent consumption of such foods can cause cancer related issues in the human body. With this reason, plastic bags should be banned.

To sum up, all the reasons are much evidence to prove that the ban on plastic bags should be necessitated. Other alternatives such as paper and cotton bags can be used since these do not contribute much to flooding. Unlike plastic bags which can be used once and be disposed, paper bags can be used up to one hundred and thirty one times before it is disposed.

## UGCD-71

The modernization and the simplicity of most processes have led to the mass consumption of plastics in our daily lives such that we cannot avoid them. Plastic bags are very common that they are given at no cost when we purchase items from the grocery shops. Being cheap and easy to carry, plastic bags are found everywhere around us. Plastic bags were initially made to make our lives easy but these plastic bags have turned out to be the root cause of environmental pollution it is time we eradicate this item if we are not able to place conscious effort to recycle them.

First of all, plastic bags pollute our land and water. They do not decompose easily. When plastic bags are disposed improperly, they do not decay due to its non-bio degradable properties. Plastic bags break into tiny pieces and remain up to 1000 years contaminating the soil and waterways. Contamination of the soil prevents effective plant growth which has a great impact on the agricultural produce and yielding. Contamination of waterways also destroys the organisms that depend on water bodies to survive therefore destroying the whole ecosystem. The pollution of water and land is harmful to wildlife and marine-life therefore plastic bags should be banned.

At the same time, plastic bags are costly to pay for and to clean up after. Though plastic bags are less expensive individually, these little costs are incorporated into the prices of the items we buy. So the “free” plastic bags we receive after purchasing items from the market are not so free after all. Research shows that, Americans spend as much as \$11 billion per year to clean up plastic bags. So when plastic bags make their way into the waterbodies, it is very expensive to clean up and that money could be used into something more profitable.

Lastly, plastic bags should be banned because there are better alternatives available which would cause less pollution to the environment. Jute bags and cloth bags could be used instead of the plastic bags to hold our items together. The jute bags and cloth bags are more durable are less expensive. Cloth bags are also larger and therefore capable of holding more weight compared to the plastic bags. Unlike the plastic bags, Cloth and Jute bags are 100% biodegradable; they decompose easily so they do not prevent effective plant growth. This is also another reason why plastic bags should be banned.

To conclude, Plastic bags do us a lot of harm than good. It is proved that plastics and plastic made materials like bags and toys are making the lifecycle of plants, animals and of course, the users of the plastic bags, the humans tougher. Plastic bags should be banned for a safer environment and a healthy life.

## UGCD-72

Plastics bags are types of containers made of thin, flexible, plastic film, Nonwoven fabric or plastic textile. Plastic bags are used for containing and transporting goods such as foods, products, powders ice, magazines chemicals and waste. It is a common form of packaging, it has also leads to some dangerous effects in the word. Plastics bags should be banned because they are harmful to wildlife, they have toxic chemicals, toxic chemicals are released during manufacturing, it exposes children to lung complications, and block drainage system.

Firstly, plastic bags are harmful to Wildlife. Animals suffer harm at the hands of plastic bags in the number of ways. Many animals including both terrestrial and aquatic varieties eat plastic bags and suffer from serious health problems. A significant number of cows, for example, die each year after eating plastic bags that end up in their grazing grounds. This has been a particularly big problem in India, where cows are numerous trash-collection sporadic. Animals who swallow plastic bags often suffer from intestinal obstructions, which typically leads to a long, slow and painful death. Animals can be poisoned by the chemicals used to create the bags, or form chemicals that the plastic has absorbed while making its way through the environment.

Also, plastic food storage package has toxic chemicals. Studies have shown that meals that are eaten or heated in plastic bags result in the development of ulcers, asthma, obesity and cancers. This is attributed to the fact that plastic bags have some chemicals that will mix with the meal when heated. One of these chemicals is Bisphenol-A(BPA). It helps to make plastic more flexible and durable. While it makes plastic more useful for everyday use, this chemical contributes to serious health risk, especially when it comes in contact with food. Studies on animals have revealed that high doses of BPA have the potential to undermine reproductive development and functions. Studies have also shown that people who have excessive amounts of BPA in their system are more prone to various serious health issues such as diabetes, liver toxicity, and heart disease. This chemical can also have detrimental effects on the brain.

Furthermore, toxic chemicals are released during plastic manufacturing. Ingredients of plastic bags include plethora of neurotoxic, careinogenic and hormanedisruptive chemicals. Some of these chemicals are also released as by-products of plastics production. When released, they eventually end up in our ecosystem through the land, water and air pollution. They are so lightweight, plastic bags get easily picked up by wind and travel long distances by wind and water to pollute nature.

Plastic bags expose children to lung complications. According to the World Health Organization, when pregnant women are exposed to high concentration of Phthalates and BPA, which are chemical compounds found in plastics, they may give birth to children with lung problems. These children may also be at high risk of developing asthma later in life. Moreover, children's exposure to these chemicals has been associated with increased insulin resistance and high blood pressure. According

to the New York University School of Medicine, this problem contributes heavily in the outbreak of childhood obesity and diabetes. It has also been linked to kidney and heart complications.

Finally, massive accumulation of plastic bags blocks drainage systems. Plastic bag accumulations are one of the most common causes of drainage system clogging. Developing countries are the most affected with this problem. A good example of this impact is the floods that hit Bangladesh about two decades ago. There was extensive blockage of drainage systems, which was partly attributed to plastic shopping bags.

In conclusion, plastic bags should be ban due to the following points listed below: harmful to wildlife, they have toxic chemicals, toxic chemicals are released during manufacturing, it exposes children to lung complications and blocks drainage system. These points listed must be taken into consideration in order to ban plastic bags to prevent environmental damage caused by plastic bags.

### UGCD-73

They are more convenient and that's undoubtedly true. Today, once we shopping, we will see tons of individuals carrying their shopping bags made from plastic. Yes, plastic bags are really beneficial for all of us to carry the things we have bought. As common as they are, they are given for free once we buy almost everything from grocery and vegetable shops. They are of high significance to us but have we ever thought of assessing the other side of the ball? Plastic bags are of high danger to our environments and lives as a whole. If only the negative impacts of plastic bags on our environment were clear enough, I am fairly certain that aborting the use of plastic bags will be happening soon and a new alternative will be used.

Firstly, it is not easy to recycle a plastic bag. Since it is plastic and as thin as it is, a special machine is lifted in order to break the plastic and mould it into another product and there are only a few recycling facilities that have this equipment to recycle plastic bags and it is quite costly. As a result of this, the recycling rate of plastic bags globally per anum is less than 20 per cent.

Secondly, plastic bags tend to pollute our land and water. Because they are very lightweight, they are easily carried away by air and water and they easily pollute our environment. Look around forests and parks, seas and oceans, even our homes and gutters and you will discover that they are the most common litter, obviously causing pollution. It is hard to believe, but these bags have managed to cause flooding in some cities in Bangladesh that has brought about its ban in the country.

Also, animals suffer harm at the hands of plastic bags in a number of ways. Many animals including both terrestrial and aquatic ones, do eat plastic bags either intentionally or during feeding and when they land in their digestive systems, they tend to create some serious health problems for these animals. When plastic bags land into an animal's gut, they can prevent food digestion, and gradually, they cause death. After the animal's death and decay, they move on into the marine environment to kill other wildlife.

With all these been said, I finally suggest plastic bags should be banned for our own good since its negatives totally outweigh the positives. I think the best alternative is the use of reusable bags. Do you wonder why? The explanation is quite simple. Reusable shopping bags are very durable and can be reused many times as we want. This means that you are not consuming more resources every time you need to carry your groceries home. Instead, you are actually reusing a product, and that means you are utilizing earth's resources smartly, while at the same time reducing waste.

#### UGCD-74

The introduction of rubber bags has been very helpful over the years for mainly support and carrying of belongings. Unlike paper bags, rubber bags are more durable and also resistant to bad weather. Even though it's importance cannot be undermined, rubber bags also give a thousand reasons for which it should be banned. A typical example is irreparable damages to the environment.

Rubber bags are a major litter problem. Due to its rampant use, rubber bags can be seen everywhere, mostly due to improper disposal; snagging in between tree branches, blown across roads, in the soil as a result of erosion and floating on rivers which finally end up in the sea. These materials are indecomposable and therefore can be buried in soils without decomposing for decades or even centuries.

In addition to the fact that they cannot decompose, rubber bags tend to release chemical substances slowly which affect animals. Waste materials disposed in water bodies contain a lot of rubber bags that tend to choke marine species to death or put their lives at risk. Typical examples include sea turtles which often mistake rubber bags for jellyfish, their main food. Also, a significant number of cows die each year after eating rubber bags that end up in their grazing grounds.

In relation to this, rubber bags contribute to environmental harm in urban centres where wildlife is scarce. Run off water carries all these bags and washes them into storm sewers where they form clumps with other debris blocking the flow of water. Inconveniences such as blocked roads, damaging of cars due to excess water and disruption of water flow in watersheds often occur to people living within areas where there are drainage challenges due to clogged storm sewers.

Furthermore great waste of natural resources is also a reason for rubber bags to be banned. Rubber bags production takes approximately ten percent of the world's oil supply and unfortunately only 3.5 percent of this number is recycled, thus making the rest a great waste of natural resources. The chemicals that go into the production of rubber bags can be utilised in a far more effective manner.

There is the need to ban rubber bags because paper bags can be reused. Paper bags serve as a perfect substitute to rubber bags because they are not only environmentally friendly but also do not waste much resources. This is so because trees used to produce paper bags serve for multiple other functions and therefore numerous policies have been implemented to replace cut trees.

In spite of everything, rubber bags are an important concern, therefore it is every individual's responsibility to examine the challenges rubber bags present and implement strategies that will help reduce damage caused to the environment and the globe as a whole.

#### UGCD-75



Plastic bags are generally used in many countries across the globe. plastic bags are used worldwide every year. In particular, the use of plastic bags vary from country to country, from place to place and from people to people. According to the earth policy institute, nearly one trillion plastic bags are used world wide every year. Plastic bags are everywhere these days, and while they may seem like cheap and easy way to carry our goods, they are wreaking havoc on the planet in a number of ways and therefore need to be banned. Three reasons why plastic bags should be banned is that they pollute the environment, pose threat to animals life and lead to floods.

One reason why plastic bags should be banned is that they pollute the environment. Plastic bags contain polyethylene and cannot easily biodegrade so if they are not recycled or disposed of properly, they become pollution which we commonly see alongside roads or floating in waters. This however creates nuisance to humans, livestock and the environment at large.

A second reason why plastic bags should be banned is that they pose a threat to animals life. Animals such as birds, cattle and aquatic animals often mistake plastic bags for food or nest building materials which lead to poisoning, choking, entanglement and blocked intestine all of which can result in death. This has however caused the lives and safety of many livestock which is gradually leading to their extinction and deterioration.

A third reason why plastic bags should be banned is that they lead to floods. Due to their light weight, plastic bags can easily blow out trash receptacles or even landfills. They then clog up or choke waterways making it difficult for drainage to occur especially during a heavy downpour. This leads to flooding resulting in loss of properties, displacement of people from their homes and possible deaths. They also provide an ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes which leads to malaria as well as causing damages to agricultural lands.

To sum up, placing ban on plastics eliminate bags which equals less litter and less pollution. Picking up litter costs tax money so banning plastic bags will reduce litter and allow for tax money to be redirected to more important areas. Countries such as Botswana, Ethiopia, South Africa , Uganda, and many other countries in Africa are having ban on plastics which Ghana should adopt and do same to save the environment and lives as well as income and expenditure for the development and betterment of the country.

UGCD-76

The demand and usage of plastic bags have increased in almost every part of the world. About 500 billions plastic bags are used every year worldwide. According to research conducted by most environmental scientists, they take up to 1000 years to degrade and poses as a challenge for disposal without decomposition. The negative effects of these plastic bags are a menace in the environment. And for these reasons there is a need for ban on their usage.

Plastic bags are harmful to human health. The presence of some chemicals from plastic bags disrupts the normal functioning of hormones in the body. Most of the plastic fragments in the oceans contain pollutants such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl) and PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) which are non-disrupting. The marine animals consume these chemicals from the fragments which move through the food web then later into the humans who consume fish as well as other marine animals. The chemicals are accumulated in the systems of these organism due to their exposure to them in the ocean. When humans prepare them, they feed on all these chemicals which affects their health. Doctors also claim that the frequent exposure of humans to plastic bags increases the rate of lung problem in children, difficulties during pregnancy, high blood pressure and prostate problems in men among others.

Plastic bags causes the clogging of drainage systems and sewers when accumulated. In communities such as the urban areas where wildlife is quite scarce, plastic bags cause tremendous environmental damages. After rainfalls, runoff water accumulates and carries discarded plastic bags and finally washes them into drainage systems and sewers. These accumulated plastic bags form clumps with other types of debris which ultimately blocks the flow of water in the drainages, making them stagnant on roads and forcing them into the homes and workplaces of residents and workers causing inconveniences. Such occurrences leads to flooding in such areas and pollution as a results of waste products being carried by the runoff water.

Plastic bags keeps the streets and surrounding filthy. Most cities in the Indian and some African communities are under poor sanitation as a result of the constant use and the improper disposal of plastic bags. Almost every commodity purchased or sold are packaged in plastic bags and people are not conscious on the necessity to ensure proper disposal of such waste. They tend to throw them in water bodies, streets, bushes and in landfills. These waste litters our streets and surroundings making them environmentally appalling and degrading the value of the general surrounding.

In conclusion, plastic bags are a significant environmental concern that humanity must make a priority in these advancing age due to its immense negative effects, such as the danger it poses on human health, causes of unnatural floods and pollution as a result of the clogging of drainages and sewers and making the environment unclean.

## UGCD-77

Plastics is any material that can be moulded into different shapes when soft. Although the services of plastics is numerous, the danger associated with it is alarming. Being cheap and easy to carry. It has managed to creep into every household. Its alarming effect to the environment is an essential case of concern and therefore should be banned. Key effects are environmental damages, plastics litter our streets and its non-biodegradable.

One major effects of plastic that needs to be banned is environmental damages. Plastics have a long time effect on our environment which destroys it gradually. The much accumulated plastics such as bottles, polythene bags and plastic waste which has filled our seas, oceans and rivers has affected the fishes and other creatures that live in it. Plastic pollution cause harm to humans, animals and plants through toxic objects, therefore covering the ocean surfaces leading the destruction of habitats and wildlife.

Another reason why plastic should be banned is that they are non-biodegradable. Plastics are by nature non-degradable. They cannot be decomposed after usage. They are left to the exposure to the environment making it tidy and unsafe for human and animal life. Heavy dumping of plastic waste covers the land which can never be decomposed and making the land loses it fertility and making it unsafe for normal human life. Because they are made from crude oil, they emits significant amounts of pollution which makes it difficult for it to decompose which in turn affects all aspect of human life.

Lastly, plastic litter our streets which is a major reason why it should be banned. When we drink bottles of water and other plastic materials and litter them unnecessarily, they make our major cities and streets being scattered with a lot of plastic waste which makes them not nice. The high rate of plastic waste in our main cities and streets makes the place unsafe for human life. They even causes a lot of diseases in those major cities and streets. Plastic waste on our streets has many years affected our normal life. Plastic pollution has affected our cities and streets making it unsafe for human life.

In conclusion, plastic waste has affected life in many aspects. Non-biodegradable, environmental damages and litter our streets are all indicators that plastic should be banned. Looking at the high rate at which plastic is causing harm to humans and the environment, there is the need to completely ban it so as to save human and the environment at future risk.

## UGCD-78

Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily life. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastic possess the lion's share. If we merely take a look around us, we can find umpteen items which have plastic content it. Being cheap and easy to carry, it has managed to creep into every household.

Despite being aware of the health hazards caused by plastics, people continue to use it on a regular basis. The plastic bag is a major villain that poses a threat to the ecology in general and living things in particular. So it is high time that we eradicate this deathly item from our environment, if we are unable to put a conscious effort to recycle it.

Plastics do not undergo the natural process of decomposition due to its non-bio degradable properties; hence, it paves the way to severe environmental pollution, spoils the soil and its fertility.

Studies suggest that over one trillion plastics bags are being used worldwide every year. The issue is regarding its disposal. These wastes accumulate in heaps and become a great menace to the ecosystem. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they emit toxic gases into the atmosphere, which when inhaled causes severe health problems.

Another issue occurs when the plastic bags interact with soil and diminish the fertility. It has a significant impact on the agricultural produce and yielding. During rain, these flow into water bodies causing water pollution. In spite of this, it wreaks havoc to aquatic species and marine wildlife. Marine species have found consuming plastic pieces by mistake as natural food and finally succumb to death.

Plastic bags littered carelessly are fed upon by dogs, cats, monkeys, cows, etc. This, in turn, can block their digestive system and ultimately render them a slow death. So the use of plastic bags is quite dangerous to animals. Moreover, children, if exposed to plastic items are at high risks of suffocation. They seem to be quite attracted to the plastic bags of different colours and shape, which is very hazardous.

Plastic bags mounted in heaps raises much public health issues. The dumping yards become the breeding grounds of microorganisms that are sources of different life-threatening diseases. These can also lead to the multiplication of mosquitoes, rats, etc., which are the carriers of many epidemics. Plastic bags have proven to cause a visible depletion of natural resources. It is also found to enter into drainage system resulting in severe blocks.

The use of plastic bags, in the long run, seeks to contribute to climate change and global warming. The process of manufacturing plastics involves the emission of greenhouse gases. Hence plastic bags are proven to cause the ecological imbalance which threatens the environment, which is our basic life supporting system.

We should all make it a practice to use jute bags, cloth bags or paper bags instead of plastic bags; encourage others to do the same and let them follow your example; and spread awareness on the ill effects of plastic bags and be enthusiastic to go green. There is the need to switch over to an eco-friendly lifestyle and embrace the 3 R's, namely, Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle; and also remember that, change begins from us, and so we should keep plastic bags at bay.

#### UGCD-79

Urbanization, Technical advancement and the ease of every process has led to the usage of plastic bags in such a way that, Plastics have become an unavoidable component in our daily lives. Many of plastic factories produce plastic bags which are popularly used by many due to cheapness and comfort of use but, The actual scenario is, Instead of bringing comfort to our lives, These plastic bags are the root cause of environmental pollution, Illness in humans and animals etc. Countries like China, Bangladesh, South Africa, Rwanda, Italy have banned the use of plastic bags due to the public concern over the serious negative impact on the environment and agriculture.

Plastic bags can be harmful to plants and animals in the sense that, When the plastic bags are not disposed well and left on the ground, they gradually penetrate into the soil and release toxic chemicals which contaminates the plants and causes soil infertility. As a result, animals tend to eat these plants and often choke and die.

Also, these plastic bags have negative impact on human health. During the production of plastic bags, harmful toxic chemicals are released into the air which are exposed to individuals which ends up causing health hazards such as (cardiovascular diseases, kidney failure, respiratory problems etc.) In Ghana, foods such as jollof rice, waakye, are served in plastic bags, which contains chemicals like styrene and bisphenol. According to science, these chemicals causes reproductive problems and these chemicals might not display symptoms immediately but later in the future. Plastic contains carbon and hydrogen monomers can be highly flammable and once they ignite, they produce flammable gases that can fuel a fire further. This is part of the reasons why they have to be banned.

Further, plastic bags can remain on the surface of the earth for up to 500 years and will not be broken down by microorganisms. These plastics deteriorates over some time on the soil. It remains on the surface leaks into the soil and causes soil infertility.

Plastic bags have better substitutes such as paper bags, canvas bags, cotton bags, basket bags. With paper bags, it is 100% biodegradable and reusable. They can be used multi-purposely and can withstand more pressure or weight than plastic bags. Cotton bags are also reusable and biodegradable because it is generated from farming which makes it renewable. Even though the cost of farming cotton is costly because of the huge water requirements, pesticides and chemical fertilizer, it is still a better alternative because it does not pose health hazards. Canvas bags are also made from cotton and can be washed regularly and reused as many times as you want. They can even be made at home by learning DIY and you can stitch your own bag. The above alternatives give good reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

Again, In Ghana, plastic bags have been a major cause of clogged sewage. Heavy downpours have been disrupting normal life. Urban floods are entirely manmade with poorly maintained drains, plastics bags shrink open spaces and climate change contributing to accumulation of water on roads after heavy downpour. Clogged sewers and drains can be a threat to human and animal lives especially during rainy periods. Plastic bags contribute mainly in these floods causing the death of innocent lives.

First of all, Plastic bags are more durable than paper bags. Due to the nature of these bags, they are able to withstand wear, pressure or damage. They can be more useful in the rain than paper bags because they are manufactured in a way that, they are most functional and convenient packing option for businesses and consumers. From shopping, retailing, Plastic bags are used around the world in a large scale unlike paper bags that carry lighter weight and are not waterproof.

Furthermore, Plastic bags are cheaper as compared to paper bags or cotton bags. This means that, businessmen and women will prefer to use plastic bags for their businesses in order to make profit. Though plastic bags have both negative and positive aspects, it has caused more harm than good and therefore should be banned. There are various ways through which government can make the ban effective.

Education, Student Take on Plastic (S.T.O.P) is an initiative borne out of ban on the Bag conference at the Hewitt School in 2013 and their follow-up-students training on how to talk to lawmakers to encourage them to pass the legislation that bans or places a surcharge on single-use plastic bags. We can start this in our nation, and this will help spread this education across with the help of the media.

Also, the ban on plastics should be backed by law. After education the citizens, the ban should be backed by law and sanctions should be placed on them so that individuals who violate this law will pay dearly. This will put fear in individuals, and they will abide by the law.

Lastly, the government should bring substitutes for plastic bags such as cotton bags, jute bags, plastic bags etc. When they are introduced, prices should be lowered to catch the eye of buyers. This helps to make the ban effective.

In conclusion, Plastic bags should be banned because they pollute the environment and have great health risks even though they have made life simpler from multiple points of view but, its negative outweighs its positive. Most countries are working hard to create initiative and awareness campaigns to stop use of plastic bags. We need to create a safe environment for the upcoming generation and banning plastic bags is one of them.

Plastics bags has become the most known medium of carrying our purchased goods. But we have no idea how they are made neither what happens to them when we dispose them after use. Both these aspects are extremely important as they are part of the major environmental concerns for the entire world.

Plastic bags has been useful in many ways but relating to health factor, it has been proved to be very harmful to human health and the environment as a whole. Studies show that, they are non-bio degradable, which means they do not decompose easily making their disposal a huge challenge. Our soil takes almost 500 years to decompose one plastic bag. Burning them also releases poisonous gases into the atmosphere therefore not a healthy disposal practice.

The harmful effect of plastic bags differ in accordance to the usage. Using plastic bags to heat food in a microwave cause the release of toxins to the food in it, which upon consumption by humans cause diseases like cancer, asthma and ulcers. Plastic bags that end up in water bodies cause deleterious effects to aquatic life. These plastic bags that we rely on for our every purchase at every store are perilous for the environment. The problem of using plastic bags is much more serious than it actually appears. Various studies report that these plastic bags are the major cause of water pollution. Additionally, these plastic bags make our fertile agricultural land highly infertile by occupying the underground and avoiding the uptake of minerals by the plants. Plastic bags littered carelessly are fed upon by dogs, cats, monkeys, cows, etc. This, in turn, can block their digestive system and ultimately render them a slow death. So the use of plastic bags is quite dangerous to animals. This is as a result of inappropriate disposal of these plastic bags. People do not adhere to the rules regarding the recycling of plastic bags hence making the policy of recycling a failed one due to ignorance regarding the harmful effects. The use of plastic bags, in the long run, seeks to contribute to climate change and global warming. The process of manufacturing plastics involves the emission of greenhouse gases. Hence plastic bags are proven to cause the ecological imbalance which threatens the environment, which is our basic life supporting system.

Even though many people are aware of the harmful effects of the usage of plastic bags, they pay deaf ears and continue to use due to the fact that it is light weight, convenient, durable and economical.

Man should return to basics. Usage of cloth, paper and jute bags was how the baby boomers lived in this world. We are also aware that when man returns to making paper bags, forests may be cut down. Efficient choices such as beneficial lifestyle choices like a reusable bag, carrying your water bottles, drinking the juice from your cups rather than using a straw etc. can help the society be sustainable.

Plastic bag usage has become an imminent catastrophe which needs immediate attention.

## UGCD-81

Plastic bags are containers made of thin, flexible and plastic textiles. They are normally used for holding and transporting goods and services. Such goods could be in the form of foods, wastes and newspapers. Plastics have proven useful and convenient in our daily lives, however, in recent times, there has been public support for the need to ban them because they have become a nuisance to the natural environment and human health. Non-bio-degradability of plastics, Asphyxiation and, Exposure to ultraviolet radiation when plastic bags releases greenhouse gases are vivid reasons why there is the need to ban plastic bags.

To begin, plastic wastes are non-bio-degradable. This means that they cannot decompose, thus remaining for a very long time. This has served as one of the main pollutants of our lands, water bodies and oceans. It is common to see black polythene when the earth is dug in many places today. Likewise, it is a common sight to see beaches littered with plastics that have been deposited in the ocean. Non-bio-degradable waste cannot be allowed to accumulate over time since it would be deleterious to human and

marine health because, the only means to get rid of them is to burn them. Burning of plastic bags produces toxic fumes which contains dangerous chemicals such as sulphur dioxide and furans which can cause ailments and stress to the human immune system.

Moreover, plastic bags can cause asphyxiation either unintentionally or deliberately. There have been instances where people have deliberately used plastic bags to asphyxiate people. Children who are curious end up blocking their mouths and nostrils with plastic bags. This can lead to oxygen deprivation leading to deaths in situations where no adult is around to help.

Finally, plastic bags release greenhouse gases when they are exposed to ultraviolet radiation. Greenhouse gas is a gas which absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range. Chloro Fluoro Carbons (CFCs) is an example of such gas which causes greenhouse effects. The ultraviolet radiation is a form of electromagnetic radiation normally found in sunlight. Exposure of plastic bags to Ultraviolet rays can cause premature ageing of the skin of humans and eye problems.

In summary, plastic bags have proven useful and convenient in our day-to-day activities, however, their harmful effects outlined above far outweigh their benefits and conveniences and banning them would be the right call to make.

## UGCD-82

Centuries ago, people had all forms of containers to keep food when they purchased them. These containers were mostly ceramic, with some others being made from animal skin. These containers were degradable. Plastic bags on the other hand are not degradable, and as a result, have led to the pollution of the environment. Plastic bags should be banned.

Plastic bags for years now have been used in shopping centers and market places to help shoppers carry their goods. Plastic bags are not degradable when disposed of, and as a result, have led to water pollution and land degradation. It is so sad that we find dead whales that have been choked by plastic bags on our beaches. Plastic bags that end up in water bodies choke aquatic life when they feed on them, and they pollute the water which may make it unsafe to drink. The pile-up of plastic bags on land especially at landfills has also led to the degradation of the land as these bags are non-degradable.

The production of plastic bags has led to the creation of jobs at the expense of the protection of the environment. Through the jobs created from plastic bag production, people have been able to afford their basic needs such as food and shelter. This though elating is not as sweet as it sounds. Plastic bags are produced from polythene and in the production of polythene, greenhouse gases are released. This leads to air pollution, and it makes the environment unpleasant to live in. Banning the production of plastic bags may lead to people being unemployed, and result in their search for other jobs. On the other hand, if plastic bags are not banned, the level of pollution may rise.

Lastly, poor waste management has been a major problem Ghana currently faces. Most of our drainage systems are choked with plastic bags. Unfortunately, when there is a heavy downpour, we mostly end up experiencing flooding. These floods have led to the loss of property and sometimes life. This has led to grief and economic problems. Domestic waste from homes largely comprises of plastic bags mostly because, when we purchase goods, we are given plastic bags to carry them. Sadly, some people empty their domestic waste into drainage systems and this causes flood when the rains come.

In conclusion, plastic bags have done more harm than good. Though the production of plastic bags creates employment for some people, it is done under the expense of the natural environment. Plastic bags pollute water bodies and kill aquatic life. They degrade the land and cause flooding due to poor waste management systems. It is therefore advisable to use reusable bags instead of plastic bags. This in the long run will help protect the environment from pollution.

## UGCD-83

Plastic bags are flexible materials made of polyethylene, a substance that is derived from crude oil refining and natural gas processing. The first plastic bags were introduced to consumers in the 1950s to carry goods. The use of plastic bags is a common way of packaging. However, plastic bags have proved to be harmful as plastic bags tends to pollute the environment, may be harmful to wild life as well as marine life and may cause harm to human health.

Plastic bags tends to pollute the environment through improper disposal of plastic bags. Disposing of plastic bags has over the years been a challenge to many countries. As a result of consistence discarding of waste plastic bags, they get easily picked up and travel long distances by wind and water reasoning to their light weight. As it travels, they get down into the land where the plastic bags break up into tiny microscopic pieces deposited in soils. These tiny microscopic pieces are made of toxic substances which drain into the soil and makes it infertile. Also during rainfall, the plastic bags chock and traps the drains leading to flood-like situation and disrupt the normal life of people.

Moreover, plastic bags may be harmful to wild life as well as marine life. Animals form part of the environment. They can be seen as a source of food, produce raw materials for primary products for production, for instance the hide from a cow can be used for works such as, footwear, automobile seats, clothing, bags, furniture and many more. In as much as they are beneficial, the lives of these creatures may be at risk as a result of improper disposal of these plastic bags. As they are released in the environment, the land becomes polluted. The land is choked with plastic bags and it toxic chemicals. In search of food, land animals are likely to consume these plastics hence clogs the intestine of these creatures leading to slow starvation. Others also are caught in these plastics which may cause them to drown. Also, creatures in oceans and seas are not left out. Plastic bags can be seen among the top twelve debris alongside the coastlines which proves that, plastic bags can be a litter to the surroundings of sea creatures.

In addition, plastic bags may cause harm to human health. Plastic bags contain toxic chemicals hence are leached into the substances kept in them. Through consumption and other means, these toxic chemicals may likely get into the blood stream and tissue of humans and exposure to these may link with cancer, impaired immunity, birth defects, endocrine disruption and other ailments causing harm to the health life of human. As this happens, individuals with such ailments may turn to spend all money earned on hospital bills to survive. Others are not able to survive therefore leading to their early death and this is as a result of using plastic bags.

## UGCD-84

Plastic is a chain of synthetic and semi-synthetic organic compounds with malleable properties formed into usable materials

Plastic waste has become one of the most environmentally pressing issues affecting the aquatic ecosystem and with a high possibility of harming human life. Increased production of plastic materials may overwhelm the world's ability to deal with it soon. Since 1950, man has produced a sum of 8.3 billion metric tonnes of plastic and almost half within the last 15 years. Yet, with all of Man's sophisticated technology, he managed to recycle only 10%.

So the questions remain, "What happens to the remaining 90%?", "Where do they go?", "What can we possibly do with it?"



According to earth-policy.org, an estimated total of one trillion single-use plastic bags is produced each year with about only 1% returning to be recycled.

Plastic bags continue wreaking irreparable havoc to man and the environment around us. This may make the planet uninhabitable for Man soon if these plastics are not banned.

Many concerns have been raised by various stakeholders on the effects of plastic waste.

Firstly, Plastics are derived from fossil fuels. According to studies, the extraction of fossil fuels is a carbon-intensive activity that produces an estimated amount of 12.5-13.5 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. These gases and chemicals released harm life and pollute the environment causing global warming and its continuing effects. This creates unpleasant situations threatening life on earth, hence plastics, specifically plastic bags should be banned.

Secondly, they pose a health hazard to human and animal life. Plastics, specifically plastic bags take between 450-1,000 years to completely degrade. During this period, they change when they come into contact with certain substances. They release harmful toxins into the soil which is infused in plants and later consumed. This could also pose a threat when ingested by aquatic animals and are later consumed by human beings. These toxins move from one medium to another causing harm to the host, hence its source should be banned.

Also, the loss of wildlife and aquatic species. According to marineinsight.org, a total of 12.7 million tonnes of plastic waste is washed into the ocean each which jeopardizes the natural ambiance of marine life. Studies indicate that about one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed due to plastic ingestion. Most of which are mistaken for food by these unsuspecting animals. It is also threatening to species that depend on marine life for survival and protection. The loss of wildlife cannot be juxtaposed with man's selfish behaviour, thus plastic bags be banned.

Similar to any development-oriented society, various experts and stakeholders have identified the problem, stated the possible effects including pollution, a threat to human life and loss of wildlife, and have proposed possible solutions to solve these problems. Our efforts are meaningless if we do not cut the source of these problems. It now lies on us to ban the use of plastics to save the planet, mankind, and all other species.

UGCD-85

Plastic bags are one of the major threats to the environment. They are non-decomposable substances, thus, disposal is a big challenge. There has been a drastic increase in the use of plastic bags recently which is causing more harm to the environment. While there is a significant benefit like income to production companies, it should be banned because, it leads to deterioration of the earth, clogged sewage, illness in human, and is also harmful for animals on land and in water.

One of the reasons plastic bags should be banned is because, it deteriorates the earth due to its harmful effects. It pollutes the land by getting into the soil and releasing toxic chemicals. These toxic chemicals destroy the fertility of the soil hence killing existing plants and also not supporting new plants which leads to a decrease in oxygen and a sufficient increase in carbon dioxide. This contributes to global warming. Plastic bags that enter water bodies also cause major pollution as they release toxins into the water as well.

Another reason is that, it is harmful to the animals on land and in water. Fishes, seabirds and other marine mammals get entangled with these plastic bags which causes suffocation. The animals sometimes swallow these bags which enter their guts, preventing food digestion. They are not able to eat thus, causing hunger and death after some time. As plastic bags take up to over 1000 years to breakdown, it is freed once the animal dies and decomposes and then goes back to the water or land to kill other ones. Plastic bags kill up to a million of sea creatures every year.

Also plastic bags are to be banned because, they impose negative effects on human health. As fishes and wildlife are getting intoxicated by the toxins from plastic bags, it affects the food chain which threatens human life. Micro plastics which enter the body by direct exposure through inhalation etc, lead to inflammation, oxidative stress etc, which are linked to health issues such as cancer and inflammatory bowel disease.

We can also talk of clogged sewages as one of the reasons plastic bag should be banned since it is one of the main causes of clogged sewages. This is because, they are not properly disposed, therefore, entering sewage to shrink spaces. This causes floods when there is a heavy downpour and the water isn't able to pass through and so it accumulates on roads. This disrupts normal life as these floods cause people to leave their homes affected and also destroys a lot of properties. Lives are also lost as a result.

Although plastic bags are big threats to everyone and the environment, it is still being overlooked. People aren't looking at the long term effects of these plastic bags which are used every day. Plastic bags are undoubtedly convenient and cheaper alternatives but a continuous use of it will cause huge problems to the environment in the long term. Since its negative effects are extreme and harmful, there should be a ban on plastic bags in order to save the environment and earth.

## UGCD-86

What is a plastic bag? What is the importance of using a plastic bag? What is the effect the use of plastic bags on the environment? A plastic bag is a type of container made of a thin plastic textile and is used for containing and transporting goods. Plastic bags are very important in our daily lives. As stated earlier, plastic bags help to contain and transport goods. The use of plastic bags has a lot of effects; both positive and negative but the negative effects surpasses the positive effects. And since the negative effects surpasses the positive effects, the use of plastic bags should be banned and the following are the reasons why.

To begin, plastic bags are a major source of environmental pollution. Plastic is a non-biodegradable substance, that is, it does not decay in the soil and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years if not disposed properly, and this ends up polluting the environment immensely. In Ghana for instance, according to the environmental protection agency, 73 percent of the waste we find around us constitute plastics so if the use of plastic bags is not banned, it would end up degrading the environment and even the planet as a whole.

Secondly, the use of plastic bags must be banned because they are harmful for animals and marine creatures. As a result of the improper disposal of these plastic bags, they end up on the land and also waterbodies. Animals and marine creatures unknowingly consume these plastic particles along with their food. This leads to suffocation and eventually death. Research has proven that waste plastic bags have been one major cause of animal deaths.

To continue, plastic bags cause illnesses in humans. The production of plastic bags releases toxic chemicals. As a result of this, most people who reside close to factories that produce these plastic bags end up falling sick. These toxic chemicals released causes air pollution and pollution of the environment is a major reason for various diseases which are spreading easily in humans.

To conclude, plastic bags cause clogging of sewage. Waste plastic bags are one of the reasons for trapping drains and gutters and also sewers especially during the rainy season. This causes flood and as a result of this, the normal life of people is disrupted.

Although the use of plastic bags may have its merits, its demerits are unbearable and as a result of this, we must all come to an agreement to ban the use of plastic bags and find alternative methods of containing and transporting goods.

## UGCD-87

As a result of technical revolution, urban sprawl and the effortlessness of every process, plastics have become an inescapable constituent one's day to day life. Plastics have the lion's share from a Lilliputian pen to the mammoth containers. A mere scan of the environment will reveal umpteen items which have plastic content in it. Being cheap and light weighted, plastics bags have managed to slide into every household. Many people around the globe continue to use plastic bags regular bases despite being aware of its disadvantages. Plastic is not degradable, therefore makes it a very major villain that causes threat to the ecology in general and living things as well. Hence, it has become very essential to eradicate this deathly item from the environment before it ruins the Earth completely. The subsequent paragraphs will discuss why plastic bags should be prohibited.

In the first place, plastic bags are a major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic is a non-degradable substance, thus, it remains in the environment over hundreds of years even after disposal. Due to this, plastics have become the main cause of land pollution today. In the sense that whenever our environments are littered with plastic bags, the probability and likelihood of they getting in the soil is very high. The presence of plastic bags in the soil is interrupts the movement of nutrients, water and air and thus hinders the growth of plants and trees. Plastic bags entering into water bodies due to poor disposal of them results in water pollution. Nonetheless, disposed plastic bags release a lot harmful chemicals, therefore polluting the environment. In other words, the daily use of plastics and wrong disposal of them leads to the deteriorating of the environment. Studies suggest that over one trillion plastic bags are being used in the globe every year. The problem pertains to its disposal. Often, plastic bags are not properly disposed, thus they accumulate into heaps and become one great menace to the ecosystem. Burning of plastic bags cause air pollution as these bags emits toxic gases into the atmosphere, which when inhaled causes severe health problems such as asthma and lung cancer.

Secondly, another major point is that plastic bags are a threat to animal and human life. Plastic particles that by chance enter into water are sometimes unknowingly consumed by aquatic creatures along with their food. According to research, these plastic particles consumed by marine creatures have

been a major reason for ultimately aquatic creatures' deaths. The production of plastic bags releases toxic chemicals. This is the main cause of some serious illness in humans. Therefore, plastic bags can cause the death of humans and animals. Plastic bags littered carelessly are sometimes fed upon by mammals such as cats and dogs along their food. This action will lead to a block in their digestive system and ultimately render them to succumb to death if immediate attention is not given. In the same manner, babies and toddlers exposed to plastic bags are at a high risk of suffocation.

Furthermore, another major reason is that plastic bags accumulated in heaps poses a threat to public health issues. The dumping sites become breeding yards for microorganisms that are cause of various life threatening diseases. The multiplication of mosquitoes, rats among other insects and rodents is possible when it rains. Some of these rodents and insects can be carriers of many epidemics. Waste plastic bags are also found to enter in drainage system resulting in clogged sewage. During, a heavy rain, this can result in flooding, thus disrupt the normal life of the masses.

In addition, the use of plastic bags contributes to climate change and global warming. The process of manufacturing plastics involves the emission of greenhouse gases. Polypropylene is the material used to design plastics which makes them imperishable to use. As a matter of fact, polypropylene is prepared from natural gas and petroleum, therefore making it non-biodegradable as well. Hence, plastic bags are proven to cause the ecological imbalance which poses a threat to the globe.

In conclusion, plastic bag usage has become the concern of every nation and government. Indeed, this imminent catastrophe needs immediate attention. All nations should make conscious efforts to prohibit the usage of plastic bags and make known to all citizens the perilous impact of it on the globe. By so doing, this generation is creating a viable environment for the upcoming generation.

## UGCD-88

Plastic bags do have their own importance and good use but it has its own demerits too. Plastic bags are non biological degradable products which pose a serious threat to the environment. Non bio degradable products do not decompose easily and thus keeping the environment untidy Here are various reasons for which plastic bag should be banned.

The ban of plastic bags makes the country clean and tidy. For example, Rwanda is probably Africa's cleanest country. This is due to the ban of plastic bags in their country. What drew their concern to ban the use of plastic bags was the way it was being disposed. The majority of the plastic bags was being burned after use that released harmful and toxic pollutants throughout the air. Aside from the burning, the plastic was often disposed improperly and would cause flooding from clogging the country's drainage systems.

Plastic bags are not easy to recycle. Most recycling facilities do not have the capacity to reduce plastic bags and therefore do not accept them. Recycling of plastic bags requires a specialized equipment that can break down the plastic and mold it into a new product.

With a ban on plastic bags, there would be improved technology which would boost other businesses. With a ban on plastic bags, there would be improved technology which would boost other businesses. With such a ban, the society would be required to produce some more sophisticated bags. Great manpower will be required by the manufacturing factories so they can make co-friendly and greener materials. Also it's creates job for the unemployed because we would have to produce more paper bags which will need a lot of people.

Through banning plastic bags, the people will learn to support local workers together with green industries .There are several alternatives to plastic bags. Only when these plastic bags will be banned, people will move towards greener alternatives. This is needed to support local industries that produce green products.

UNEP secretariat has recommended a ban on all plastic bags worldwide .This means there are a thousand and one reasons for the ban on plastic bags. If some governments cannot ban them completely, then they can make the people pay hefty for using plastic bags to discourage their usage.

To conclude, plastic bags is a major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non biodegradable and this plastic bags remain in the environment for hundred years polluting it immensely. It has become very essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on plastic bags or levied tax on it. However, the problem hasn't been solved completely because the implementation of these measures hasn't been successful.

## UGCD-89

Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily life and it should be banned to avoid problems in the society. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastic possess the lion's share. If we merely take a look around us, we can find umpteen items which have plastic content. Being cheap and very portable, it has manage to creep into every household.

Despite being aware of the health hazards caused by plastics, people continue to use it on regular basis. The plastic bag is a major villain that poses a threat to the ecology in general and living things in particular so it's high time that we eradicate this deathly item from our environment, if we are unable to put a conscious effort to recycle it.

Plastics do not undergo the natural process of decomposition due to its non – biodegradable properties, hence it paves the way to severe environmental pollution, spoils the soil and its fertility. Studies also suggest that over one trillion plastic bags are being used worldwide every year. The main issue is regarding disposal. These waste accumulate in heaps and become a great menace to the ecosystem. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they emit toxic gases into the atmosphere which when inhaled causes severe health problems.

Another issue occurs when the plastic bags interact with soil and diminish its fertility. It has a significant impact on the agricultural produce and yielding. During rains, these plastics flow into water bodies causing water pollution. In spite of this, it wreaks to aquatic species and marine wildlife.

Also, plastic bags littered carelessly are fed upon by dogs, cats, monkeys, cows and many more. This in turn can block their digestive system and ultimately render them a slow death. So the use of plastic is quite dangerous to animals.

Moreover, children if exposed to plastic items are at high risk of suffocation. They seem to be quite attracted to the plastics bags of different colours and shapes, which is very dangerous. Plastic bags

mounted in heaps raises much public health issues. The dumping yard becomes the breeding ground of microorganisms that are sources of different life-threatening diseases. These can also lead to multiplication of mosquitoes and rats which are carriers of many epidemics. Plastic bags have proven to cause a visible depletion of natural resources. It is also found to enter into drainage system resulting in severe blocks.

In conclusion, the use of plastic bags, in the long run, seeks to contribute to climate change and global warming. The process of manufacturing plastics involves the emission of greenhouse gases. Hence, plastic bags are proven to cause the ecological imbalance which threatens the environment, which is our basic life supporting system.

#### UGCD-90

A package is basically any material used to protect products for sale, distribution, and storage. Packages come in many forms such as paper bags, bottles, glass containers and plastic bags. Plastic bags are made from polythene hence, its popular “polythene bag” name. Plastic bags have so many uses such as for carrying items, protecting items, for storage purposes, for wrapping gifts and for serving as clean up aids. However, the disadvantages of plastic bags are critical. Inability to be recycled, pollution, and increase in diseases are three of the many havocs caused by plastic bags and should therefore be banned.

First, though plastic bags are effective for carrying commodities like fruits and vegetables, they cannot be recycled. Plastic bags are non-renewable. According to a New York Times article, estimates of the number of plastic bags used around the world each year vary in range from 100 million to a trillion. Only a small portion are able to go through recycling. Plastic bags take about a 1000 years to decompose. As a result, plastic bags stay in the system for a long time which is unsafe due to their chemical constituent.

Next, though plastic bags protect items, they bring about pollution. Plastic bags are dumped anywhere when their use is no longer required. This littering pollutes our environment. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable, meaning they do not add any nutrients to the earth or decay. They only secrete chemicals from which they are made into water bodies and the soil. Those who decide to burn them, convert plastic bags into chemically induced smoke which also pollutes the air. All these forms of pollution expose organisms to danger and should necessitate the ban of plastic bags.

Last but not least, though plastic bags are cheap and versatile, they increase diseases. Plastic bags are typically induced with chemicals. These chemicals under certain temperatures are released and harmfully exposed to organisms. Also burning plastic bags produce smoke into the atmosphere which causes acidic rain and brings about skin diseases. That coupled with the dumping of plastic bags carelessly which chokes drains, creates small pools of water and breeds mosquitos which cause malaria. Also dumping of plastic bags in our water bodies ends up spreading diseases like skin irritation, cough, lung diseases among others and even causes a breakdown in the health of aquatic life.

To conclude, plastic bags are useful in our everyday lives as they protect items, help in carrying commodities and are very cheap and versatile. However, plastic bags are doing us more harm than good as they increase pollution, are non-renewable or cannot be recycled and increase the spread of diseases. A substitute like paper bags can be encouraged to help reduce the adverse effects of plastic bags. Therefore, plastic bags should be banned.

#### UGCD-91

Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily lives. Every day we come across different types of plastics in our lives, it could be lunchbox, lunch bags or plastic bags itself. Since it is very cheap, affordable and easy to carry, it has managed to find its way into every household. Even though people are aware of its health implications, they continue to use it on a regular basis. Due to its problems and health hazards on people, it is high time the government eradicate this dangerous item from our environment. If these plastics cannot be recycled, then it should be banned. Some reasons why plastic bags should be banned are land pollution, dangerous to animals and its causes of illness in humans.

Firstly, there is an issue of disposal. Plastic bags contain high amount of toxic so when they are burnt, they emit toxic gases into the atmosphere and when inhaled, causes severe health problems. Since plastic bags cannot be burnt totally because, it will definitely leave behind some remains in the soil, they are accumulated in heaps and causes land pollution. Plastic bags do not undergo the natural process of decomposition because they do not compose easily, and thereby diminishing the fertility of the soil. Such an example can be found on a land site along the Tema-Kpong road.

Again, plastic bags are hazardous to mammals and the marine world. Plastic bags are fed upon by mammals such as dogs, cows and cats when they are littered carelessly. Due to flooding also, plastic bags are washed into the rivers and seas, making the aquatic animals feed on them thinking they are plankton (the food they feed on). This thereby can block their digestive system and render them a slow death. Animals seem to be quite attracted to plastic bags of different shape and colours which is very dangerous.

Lastly, it causes illness in humans. Plastic bags which pollutes the environment is a major reason for various diseases, and spreads easily and faster among human beings. The heap of plastic bags on dumpsites breeds mosquitoes and house flies which carry parasites around and infects human beings with it. House fly for instance settles on our food and without much care it is taken into the body which causes various illnesses. Some of the various diseases are cholera and malaria. These diseases spread faster and easily thereby causing illness in the human body.

In conclusion, there is no doubts that plastic bags have made our lives more easier and simpler since they are very affordable but these bags are unsafe to creatures and have brought about lots of problems including poor waste management, hazardous to animals and the negative impact on our health.

## UGCD-92

Plastic bags are very cheap, useful and convenient to use. However, they have generated serious problems for society which has led to rising calls to ban their use completely. Environmentalists, activists and scientists are the leaders advocating for this ban, while some economists and business leaders are against the ban. The main points raised by both sides relate to how plastic bags cause environmental pollution, destruction of animals and wildlife, but create jobs and economic value.

The major problem society faces with plastic bags is how they pollute the environment. Littered plastic bags find their way into water bodies and drainage systems. They clog up the flow of water and the drainage systems causing floods during rainfall. They also find their way into landfills, and arable land where they release toxins into the soil. This impacts the fertility of agricultural land and surrounding natural bodies and other living organisms. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable and remain in the environment for several years. In the ocean, they break down into tiny parts that are mistaken as plankton, a major food for some fish who eat them and die. The impact plastic bags have on the environment is long lasting and has led to destruction of biodiversity around the globe.

Another issue with plastic bags is how they endanger animals. Farm animals and aquatic animals are dying from eating plastic bags. Cows, goats and sheep are a few of the animals known to eat plastic bags that they find on grazing land. The plastic bag ends up in their digestive tract and blocks passage of food causing death. In the sea, endangered species like the sea turtle ingest plastic bags mistaking them as jellyfish, a major diet for them, causing their death. As long as plastic bags are in existence, some animals will continue to mistake them as food when they come across them.

On the other hand, production of plastic bags provides economic opportunities for a lot of people. For instance, most food vendors in Ghana use plastic bags in packaging food for takeaway. A ban would be a major inconvenience for them. The state generates revenue by taxing the production of plastic bags. The economic value of plastic bags to government and industry stakeholders is immense. This tension between industry and environmental concerns causes the slow adoption of reform.

In conclusion, banning plastic bags is a complex issue. Plastic bags have huge environmental destructive capabilities, from polluting water bodies to damaging farm lands. Animals and other living organisms also die from consuming plastic bags. However, the economic value and importance of this commodity is also too big to ignore.

## UGCD-93

Plastic bags are the major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. Being cheap and easy to carry, it has managed to creep into every household. Despite being aware of the health hazards caused by plastics, people continue to use it on regular basis. Plastic bags poses a big threat to the ecology in general and living things in particular. So it is high time we eradicate this deadly item from the environment, if we are unable to put a conscious efforts to recycle it.

One ill effect of plastic bags is its disposal. Statistics suggest that one trillion plastic bags are being used worldwide every year. These waste accumulate in heaps and become a great menace to the ecosystem. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they emit toxic gases such as carbon monoxide into the atmosphere, which when inhaled causes severe health problems such as lung cancer.



Another issue occurs when the plastic bags interact with soil and diminish the fertility. It has a significant impact on agricultural produce and yielding. Dangerous chemicals are released into the soil when plastic bags mix with the soil thereby endangering species such as termites, mites etc that improve fertility of the soil. During rain, these plastic bags flow into water bodies causing water pollution. In spite of this, it wreaks havoc to aquatic species and marine wildlife. Marine species have been found consuming plastic pieces by mistake as natural food and finally succumb to death.

Also, plastic bags littered carelessly are fed upon by dogs, cats, cows etc. This, in turn, can block their digestive system and ultimately render them a slow death. So plastic bags usage is dangerous to animals. Moreover, children if exposed to plastic materials are at higher risks of suffocation. They seem to be quite attracted to plastic bags of different colours and shapes, which is very dangerous.

Again, plastic bags mounted in heaps raise much public health issues. Dumping yards become breeding grounds of micro-organisms that are sources of different life-threatening diseases. Most of these dumping yards smell and often look bad and insanitary. These can also lead to multiplication of mosquitoes, rats, mice, etc., which are the carriers of many epidemics. Plastic bags have proven to cause a depletion of natural resources. It is also found to enter into drainage system resulting in severe blockages.

Although plastic is becoming a big threat for all of us, still this problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people fail to see the long term effects of these small, easy to carry bags they use in everyday life due to its convenience. But now, these ill effects of plastic bags could be stopped completely, if we stop using plastic bags or switch for cloth bags, jute bags or paper bags and an eco-friendly lifestyle by embracing the 3R's namely; Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle to save our environment and the earth.

#### UGCD-94

The products we use in our daily lives are made from different materials. One of the most commonly used material is plastic. They form an essential part of life and are used almost every day for various purposes. They are used for containing and transporting goods such as foods, produce, powders, ice, magazines, chemicals, and waste. It is a common form of packaging since it is light weight and can easily be shaped. Although plastic bags are used for many purposes, they are considered the most dangerous materials for the environment and for the reasons below, they should be banned.

Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. They destroy nature due to their harmful effect as they are non-biodegradable and take years to decompose. They remain in the land which keeps collecting over the years. Plastics get into soil and slowly release toxic chemicals which cause hindrance

to the growth of plants. The chemicals hamper the soil and also seep into the soil after breaking down and remain there causing infertility in soils and contributing to the rising problem of land pollution.

Plastic bags are harmful to human health. Tiny plastic particles have been found in human faeces, soft drinks like Coca-Cola, tap water, and in microwaved food. Health experts suspect that plastics in our digestive tract could affect absorption of some important mineral elements like iron, which are needed for maintaining proper health. Also, Plastic waste clogs water drainage channels and river tributaries of many cities which increases exposure of residents to water-borne and other mosquito borne diseases such as malaria which is endemic in our societies.

Plastic bags threaten the life of animals living on earth and in water. Animals consume plastic lying in the garbage mistaking it for food because they have no sense of what to eat and what to avoid. The consumed plastic congests the digestive tracts of these animals, and can lead to health issues such as infections, painful intestinal blockage, starvation or death by suffocation. Plastic bags which are thrown carelessly on the roads, drains and rivers are carried by wind and rains into the seas, oceans and other water bodies. These plastic bags go deep into the water and affects aquatic life resulting in serious illness in fishes, turtles and other marine creatures.

It is time we all contribute our bit to make the ban on plastic bags a success, to make the world safer and healthier. We must stop using plastic bags as it causes land pollution, water pollution and soil pollution and rather use Eco-friendly alternatives like reusable jute bag, paper bags, and steel utensils. Government must impose taxes on the importation and manufacture of plastic bags. While the government is spreading awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags, we can also spread awareness through word of mouth. Gradually, we will become habitual to doing without these bags. The United Nations Environmental Programme Secretariat has recommended a ban on all plastic bags globally.

#### UGCD-95

Pollution is the introduction of substances that is dirty and unclean and or has harmful effects. Air pollution, Land pollution and Environmental pollution are some examples of pollution. Aside burning of fossil fuels and combustion from industries which are some of the main causes of pollution, plastic bags also play a major role in polluting the environment and agriculture although it has its own beneficial or significant purpose. Some of the reasons why the usage of plastic bags should be banned are: pollution of our water bodies, pollution of our land and blockage of drains.

Firstly, plastics pollute our water bodies. Each year, tonnes of plastics are dumped into the ocean. And this practice poses a threat to the aquatic life. As plastics does not dissolve, it remains in the water thereby hampering its purity. This means we won't be left with clean water in the coming years. When a plastic is thrown into the ocean, it is being mistaken for food by the aquatic life which is harmful for them. And also, due to the harmful chemicals used in production of these plastic bags becomes a risk for water consumption by mankind, when thrown into water.

Furthermore, the use of plastic bags pollutes our land as well. When humans dump plastic waste into landfills, the soil gets depleted and ruins the fertility of the soil. In addition to this, various disease carrying insects collect in that area, causing deadly illness. Discarded plastic bags which have also found their way into the ground are not only acutely damaging but also seriously harmful to agriculture. It may take inroads to cancerous diseases due to the uncontrolled proliferation of carcinogenic substances (Spivey, 2003). Attention must be given to the effect that plastic bags are causing great harm to valuable agricultural lands which is comparable to gold that produces trillions of tons of different types of vegetables and grains to satisfy our hungry world. Plastic bags are indiscriminately dumped into millions of landfills worldwide which occupy trillions of hectares of lands and emit dangerous methane and carbon dioxide gases during their decomposing stages as well as highly toxic leachates from these landfills (Simons, 2005).

One last reason why plastic bags should be banned is, the blockage of drains. This happens because after the use of plastic bags, people dump the usage into gutters which makes it choked and as a result brings about severe floods in urban areas whenever it rains. This causes the government an innumerable financial suffering.

In conclusion, plastics are very easy to use and affordable, it is also ruining everyone's life on earth. So we must take major steps to prevent it. We must use alternatives like cloth bags and paper bags instead of plastic bags. If we are purchasing plastics, we must reuse it and also, we must avoid drinking bottled water which contributes largely to plastic pollution. Again, the government must put a plastic ban on the use of plastic bags. All these can prevent plastic pollution to a large extent.

## UGCD-96

Do you use plastic bags? Do you know what happens to the Plastic bag after it is disposed? Plastic bags are products of fossil fuels. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable hence can stay up for more than 80 years without degrading. Plastic bags are one of the most widely used plastic products in the world due to their cheap price and durability. They are easy to use too. They are very useful in our day to day activities. They are used for parceling items, transporting objects from one place to the other, and are very effective to use in the rain. In spite of the fact that plastic bags are useful, they tend to have negative effects too. Plastic bags are a threat to the lives of humans and animals, and also the environment at large, hence plastic bags should be banned.

Plastic bags are a major cause of environmental pollution like water and soil pollution. Plastic bags that are deposited in water bodies pollute the water and affect the lives of living organisms in the water. Plastic bags that float on water bodies prevent adequate sunlight from reaching the plants in the water bodies, hence may affect the rate of photosynthesis and food web in the aquatic environment. The soil is adversely affected by plastic bags too.

Plastic bags are a major cause of flooding. Plastic bags accumulated in drains and gutters prevent the free movement of rain water in them, hence the water overflows and finds its way into people's houses, leading to loss of life and the destruction of properties.

One of the problems associated with plastic bags is the loss of lives of animals. Plastic bags have claimed the lives of many land and sea animals. These animals mistake the plastic bags for food and eat them. Plastic bags are indigestible, hence stay in the digestive tract of the animals. Continuous eating of plastic bags blocks the digestive tract and stomach and with time leads to severe condition and death.

Another negative effect of plastic bags is the cause of diseases. Plastic bags are a major contributing factor to the rubbish in the environment. The disposal sites of plastic bags are the main breeding ground of disease causing organisms like bacteria, germs and mosquitoes. The outbreak of Cholera and Malaria are as a result of unhygienic and dirty environment. Severe condition of Cholera and Malaria results in

loss of life. Plastic bags also leads to health condition such as cancer. When hot foods are kept in plastic bags, dangerous chemicals are released into the food . This chemicals are very harmful to the body as they may lead to severe illnesses.

The banning of plastic bags will be an effective way to regulate the production, use and disposal of plastic bags. Plastic bags are major cause of environmental pollution, flooding, loss of lives of animals and disease conditions in humans. The ban of plastic bags will increase the quality of life of humans, animals and the environment.

#### UGCD-97

Polyethene bags commonly known as plastic bags are on a widespread usage in our world today. They come in handy and are usually given for free by sellers when a product is purchased to allow one to easily and freely transport the goods. Regardless of this, the price we are paying is the beauty of our environment as well as good health. Even though there are better substitutes, these bags are deemed more economical. However, plastic bags are extremely hazardous and must certainly be banned.

Firstly, plastic bags are highly detrimental to animal health particularly marine creatures. Most of these bags end up i our water bodies hence they have become a threat to these animals because while feeding they ingest the pieces of the plastics together with their food. As a result of the indigestion of the plastic particles, the pieces get trapped in their digestive system, thus causing grave health issues and death in extreme cases. Also, it has been proven that sometimes, when animals swallow plastic bags, it gets stuck in their throat and chokes them to death. Marine creatures are mainly known for mistakenly swallowing plastic bags. Studies have also revealed that polyethene found in the respiratory and digestive system of bovidae has been one of the major reasons for premature animal deaths.

Additionally, plastic bags have induced the deterioration of our environment overtime. Waste plastic bags are disposed off indiscriminately into drains, bushes and also unto our streets and the ones collected by the waste management companies are dumped at landfill sites where they take around 500 years to decompose. The litter around cause land pollution and the bags that enter water bodies also cause water pollution. Plastic bags are thus destroying our environment owing to their harmful effect.

Furthermore, clogged sewers and drains are commonly caused by waste plastic bags. They get trapped in the drainage systems when they run down with water or are blown away by wind. During the rainy season specifically, clogged drains are a serious threat to human and animal life. The choked drains prevent the easy flow of water hence causing a build-up of the water. This results in floods and consequently a damage of properties. An example is the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 disaster in Ghana.

In conclusion, it is evident that plastic bags are extremely harmful to human beings and the environment as well. There is a pressing need to stop overlooking and underestimating the problems caused by plastic bags but rather seek to develop alternatives such as reusable cloth bags and baskets. The onus is on us to ensure a healthy environment and plastic bag usage is not and would never be the way forward.

#### UGCD-98

A plastic bag is a type of container or bag made of non-woven fabric, plastic textiles, and plastic film. They are used for transporting goods such as foods, produce, ice, powder, waste and others but it is a common form of packaging. Plastic bags on the environment eventually breaks down into the soil, with unfortunate result being that animals eat them and often choke and die.

Ban on plastic bags does not mean that its use will stop but the ban will control the use of plastic bags by individuals since people are irresponsible when it comes to its disposal which causes environmental pollution. Below are my reasons why plastic bags should be banned;

Firstly, plastic bags affect marine life. Fishes, seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals ingest plastic products causing suffocation, starvation and drowning. Sea mammals are sometimes entangled in plastic products which causes them to suffocate. Marine mammals are killed every year from plastic bag litter in the marine environment. Plastic bags once ingested, cannot be digested or passed by an animal so it stays in the gut. Plastic in an animal's gut can prevent food digestion and can lead to a very slow and painful death. Plastic bags are the greatest threats to marine life and it needs to be banned.

Also, plastic bags cause environmental degradation. As plastic bags break down in the environment, the plastic particles contaminate the soil, they become microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment. When the environment is been contaminated, it loses its fertility and cannot yield produce such as agricultural products, so throwing plastic bags anyhow on the environment must be stopped. Plastic bags release harmful chemicals into the soil that causes damage to the microorganism that plants use for survival. For this reason, plastic bags should be banned in order to protect our environment.

Moreover, plastic bags cause flooding in our environment so it needs to be banned. We use plastic bags, straws, cups and plastic bottles for a short time and then we dispose of it. Some throw their plastic bags in gutters and sea and mostly triggered by a severe rainfall. Most of the houses around water bodies and gutters get flooded as the result as it stands the gutters cannot contain the volume of water plus plastic bags during heavy rainfall. Around our environment, plastic bags are the most common litter around us which float in our water bodies and causes flooding when it rains.

In conclusion, plastic bags cause harm to our soil, oceans and the environment at large which causes fishes, seabirds and marine mammals to suffocate and die. It also causes harm to our soil and individual's health. We must know the importance of our environment and avoid practices that degrade it. Therefore this is why I stand for; plastic bags should be banned.

## UGCD-99

Plastics refer to any chemically produced substance that can be formed into shapes when heated or made into thin threads and used to make various artificial fabrics. A plastic bag or polythene bag is a type of container made of thin, flexible, plastic film or textile. Plastic bags are used as liners for trash cans, for transporting goods such as foods, powders, ice, magazines, chemicals and waste. Plastic bags are a common form of packaging. However, currently, many countries are introducing legislations to stop the use of plastic bags because plastic bags never fully break down.

There has been a worldwide movement to stop the use of plastic bags. Every year, about 1 to 5 trillion plastic bags are used and discarded around the world. Some of the problems associated with the use of plastic bags is the amount of waste produced. Plastic bags normally end up on the streets and subsequently pollute rivers, streams, gutters etc. Plastic bags that are not properly disposed pollute waterways, and clog sewers. They can block drains, trap birds and kill livestock. Even when disposed of properly, they take many years to decompose resulting in the accumulation of large amounts of garbage which cause an everlasting pollution and environmental impact. They start out as fossil fuels and end up as deadly waste in landfills and oceans. Birds often mistake shredded plastic bags for food, filling their stomachs with toxic debris. As a result, they clog their intestines which leads to death by starvation. Fish eat thousands of tons of plastic every year, transferring it up the food chain to bigger fish and marine mammals.

Most people prefer the use of paper bags to plastic bags. Despite its low durability, one advantage paper has is that it decomposes much more quickly than plastics, and therefore it is more likely to be a source of litter and pose a risk to wildlife. Paper is also more widely recyclable, while plastic bags can take between 400 and 1000 years to decompose.

Even though plastic bags are viewed as the worst because they do not breakdown rapidly, plastic bags have a lot of benefits . They are good for branding items , are cost effective , save time and space and are weatherproof and durable. Also , plastic bags actually produce less stress on the environment as compared to paper or cotton bags. They use less water , require fewer chemicals , and produce less greenhouse gas compared to the other two. They consume 40% less energy when making them and causes 70% less solid waste than a paper bag. Independent research in 2011 showed plastic bags cause 200 times less climate damage than reusable bags.

Plastic bags may have a bad reputation but banning them could have many consequences on the consumer and even the economy without making a significant change to the environment. People still need bags to carry their foodstuffs home and paper bags are not strong enough for such items or does not have the same impact as the plastic bag. Switching to biodegradable plastic bags might be something worth considering as a ban on plastics would not be of much help for landfills because paper takes up more room in landfills than plastics.

## UGCD-100

A plastic is synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene, and nylon. A plastic bag is a type of container made of thin, flexible, plastic film or plastic textile. Plastic bags have many benefits which include containing and transporting goods such as foods, produce, powders, ice, magazines, chemicals, and waste. Nonetheless, it poses so many dangers and threat such as, environmental pollution, threat to life and suffocation of Animals. Therefore, the urgent call for various governments to ban the use of plastic bags due to threat and dangers they pose to the world should not be overlooked and underestimated.

In the first place, threat to animal life is one major reason why plastic bags should be banned. It is reported that, whales, turtles and birds die every year mainly because of plastic in their environment. Plastic bags not only have adverse effects on our natural habitats, but have also been found to be responsible for the death of many animals, mainly on account of the suffocation encountered on eating them.

Moreover, suffocation of infants and young children is another danger and threat posed by plastic bags. Children have lost their lives on account of plastic bags. Since plastic bags are thin and airtight as well, children often end up blocking their mouths, nostrils and in some cases end up eating them when wrapped to candies in case they are not being monitored by an adult, this leads to suffocation and, in some cases, even leads to death.

In addition, Land and water pollution is another reason why plastic bags should be banned. Huge landfills that have enveloped us in most of our cities are most probably majority of the rubbish present. In other words, plastic bags have led to a great increase in the pollution levels.

Since plastic bags are not bio-degradable, the only way to get rid of them is to burn them up. Though lighting a match to them is easy, it has more than its fair share of disadvantages. The biggest of them is

that, smoldering plastics can release toxic fumes into the environment, in turn taking the air pollution to much higher levels.

In conclusion, the ban of plastic bags would come a long way to improve standards of living by getting rid of blockage of our drainages during rainfall, maintaining of neat city landscapes devoid of landfills full of plastics and reduction of water, air and land pollution. Perhaps, before the ban of plastic bags is considered, other materials must be seriously considered as a replacement for plastic bag to make life easier.

## UGCD-101

Plastic bags are everywhere in our modern lives. Plastic bags are a type of packaging made of thin, flexible, plastic film, starch or plastic texture used for containing or transporting consumer goods. The convenience of plastic bags come at a high cost especially to the environment. Plastic bags are lightweight and can travel long distances either by land or water. They tend to be dangerous to the environment and litter our landscapes. Plastic bags should be banned because they never degrade, are dangerous to both marine and wildlife and are harmful to human health.

Firstly, plastic bags never degrade. Plastic bags degrade into tiny fragments which end up either in the soil and gradually release toxic chemicals or the ocean where the fishes will end up consuming tiny pieces and end up harming them eventually. Research has shown there is an estimate of 46,000-1,000,000 plastic fragments within every square mile of the world's ocean. Plastic bags not being able to degrade will become harmful.

Secondly, plastic bags are dangerous to both marine and wildlife. As plastic bags travel and break down into fragments, break down into fragments, birds, animals and fishes tend to mistaken it for food and end up eating them or worse get entangled in them which is also an endangerment in their life. These lives getting entangled in plastic bags or eating mistakenly can bring about loss of their lives. Since they can not clean or stay away from these plastic bags, the circle continues, and they continue to lose their lives.

Thirdly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Plastic bags contain chemicals which destroy functioning of hormones in the body. Most fragments of plastic bags are pollutants such as PCeB (poly chlorinated biphenyl) and PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) which are hormones disrupting. Plastic bags do not only disrupt human hormones but other parts of the body causing the human system to become weak day by day.

In conclusion, Plastic bags are very harmful and are not properly disposed of and this puts all lives on earth in danger that is, in the air, on land and under the water. Plastic bags should be banned because they never degrade, are dangerous to both marine and wildlife and are harmful to human health. In order to help save

the environment, human lives, wildlife and marine life as well, plastic bags should be banned so that tote bags, paper bags and reusable bags produce will be used in other to keep our environment clean.

#### UGCD-102

Plastic bags are containers made from high- density polyethylene extracted from crude oil. They have been in existence for since 1960. Man has used these plastic bags for so many purposes. They are used as containers to keep foods, chemicals and powders. Plastic bags are also used as wrappers and package containers among traders worldwide. However, the negative aspects of these plastic bags far outweigh the benefits. Plastic bags should therefore be banned.

First and foremost, plastic bags are not biodegradable. They cannot be broken down by microorganisms and therefore remain in refuse dumps for so many years. Research shows that plastic bags have an average lifespan of 400 years. Their continuous presence on the earth surface causes pollution of the environment. This poses a lot of health hazards to the lives of people in the society. Since it is non-biodegradable, people resort to burning them which emits harmful radiations. These radiations causes respiratory disorders and are also capable of causing cancer. So in order to have a well ventilated environment, the use of plastic bags should be banned.

Also, plastic bags endanger the lives of aquatic species. In the advanced cities, people who live closer to the sea mostly dump heaps of plastic bags into the sea. Most of these bags contain harmful chemicals which are dangerous to the health of the animals in the sea. This can result in the death of the animals. Also these plastic bags looks like feed for some aquatic animals which make them into taking them into their systems. For example, the plastic bag looks like a jelly fish which is also the only source of food for the sea turtle. So when the turtle takes it in, it choked at the throat resulting in its death. Therefore banning the use of plastic bags will go a long way to saving the lives of endangered aquatic species.

Equally important, apart from plastic bags causing harm to aquatic lives, they also cause soil infertility. The continuous dumping of plastic bags on the soil surface leads to soil infertility. This makes it difficult for plants to grow. Human beings and animals also depend directly on these plants for their survival. For instance, man cultivates crops on the soil for his consumption and animals too feed on the fruits and leaves of plants. In the case where the soil is infertile, there would be low crop yield leading to famine. To protect the soil from losing its fertility, banning the use of plastic bags is the best alternative.

In conclusion, the use of plastic bags is bringing a lot of negative effects to the environment. Plastic bags cannot be decomposed and their continuous presence on the earth surface causes a lot of health hazards. They also endanger the lives of aquatic species. The presence of plastic bags on the soil surface for a long time would render the soil infertile. So to save the environment from these dangers, plastic bags should be banned.

#### UG CD-103

The civilization, technological innovation and the ease of every process have led to the usage of plastic bags in such a way that plastics have become such an unavoidable component in our day to day life. Plastic bags have become a very common material that are given for free during the procurement at the grocery shops or vegetable shops. But instead of making our lives easy, plastic bags are the root cause of various issues like environmental, land and water pollution, illnesses in humans and animals and waste management issues.

To begin, plastic bags are very harmful to wildlife and marine life. Plastic bags are not disposed of properly. As a result, plastic bags are carried into the ocean and other water bodies by rain



which goes a long way to affect marine life. Marine creatures often mistake plastics for food. When the plastics are taken in by the marine creatures affects their digestive system and causes health issues like infections, starvation, painful intestinal blockages or suffocating to death.

Secondly, plastic bags are very harmful to human health. Plastic bags contain harmful substances. Should plastic be located in our digestive tract, absorption of some elements which is necessary may be affected leading to the inability of maintaining proper health. This is also because toxins are released into food and when we eat causes diseases like cancer. Also, when plastics are carried away, our gutters get choked. Choked gutters are a breeding place for mosquitoes give out leading to illnesses like malaria and cholera.

Furthermore, plastic bags make waste management very difficult. According to studies, plastics take 1000 years to decay and as a result, improper disposal of waste plastic adds up to the complexity that already exists with management of wastes therefore, plastics now have to be recycled at a cost, because when they are combusted too, they will produce carbon monoxide which is harmful to humans especially. It is costly to recycle plastic waste. This discourages entrepreneurs from investing in waste management, this leads to a rise in pollution.

Plastics pollute our land and water. Plastic bags are the most common litter in our environment. They can be seen hanging on trees, seen at the beaches, floating in water etc. The wind easily carries plastic bags because they are light in weight. These plastic bags travel long distances to pollute our environment. Plastic bags can cause flooding in our communities –though they look small in nature. Discarded plastic bags clog water drainage channel and sewers in cities and when it rains get waterlogged because the rainwater cannot pass through clogged sewage pipes.

With all the reasons stated in the numerous paragraphs above, it is obvious that the move for plastics to be banned is a good and reasonable one. Its effects on humans, wildlife and aquatic animals are without doubt, dangerous and displeasing. Also, its contribution to the stress in waste management has proven to be large, causing both economic and social distress to countries. Plastics have become therefore more of a harm than a blessing and it is high time its production and usage came to a halt by placing a ban on it, through a legislation.

#### UGCD-104

Since the dawn of history, mankind has yearned to develop materials offering benefits way beyond his ability. This has led to the invention of many tools given him power over other kind, and has kept him well above the food chain. A huge breakthrough came in the early 20th century, when Belgian-American chemist Leo Baekeland created Bakelite, the first real synthetic, mass-produced plastic. Since then, plastic has only grown in usage and benefit that unfortunately has a price. The environmental and health damages plastic make sometimes over shadows the huge benefits it has brought in technology, agriculture and many other fields. Should plastic be banned or not, mankind will benefit either way.

One advantage of plastic in the field of technology is that plastic has inspired innovations that help make life better, healthier and safer every day. Plastics are used to make bicycle helmets, child safety seats and airbags in automobiles. They're in the cell phones, televisions, computers and other electronic equipment that makes modern life possible. They're in the roofs, walls, flooring and insulation that make homes and buildings energy efficient. And plastics in packaging help keep foods safe and fresh. They are used to make containers to store agricultural chemicals, harvests, animal dung and other agricultural tools that make agriculture easy for that matter increase the yield and profit.

Aside inspiring inventions, plastic is light in weight. Compared to other alternatives like glass, metal etc, it is easy to identify the lightness in weight of plastic. It makes it easier to move plastic from one location to another and generally reduce the cost of its transportation. Because of this feature, plastic is

extensively used when building trains, planes, automobiles and even ships, satellites and space stations. Inventions like these were not possible just a century ago until the discovery of plastic. Imagine a cellphone or television made of clay, no doubt inventions were scarce until the 19th century.

There is, undoubtedly, the disadvantage of environmental and health risks. Plastics are non-biodegradable, which means it takes very long, between 10 and 1000 years or more to decompose unlike the normal 1 to 10 years range for organic wastes. The end result is not environmentally friendly as it causes harm to both human and animal health. Chlorinated plastic, when found in the soil, will within its decomposition years slowly release harmful chemicals to the surrounding soil, polluting the soil with harmful chemicals. These chemicals seep downward into underground waters and eventually polluting them. Some of these waters spring out and could intoxicate aquatic animals, nearby plants, animals that drink from the water and eventually humans – that drink from the water or eat the intoxicated animals. Plastic has served man in numerous ways. In turn, he and his environment are paying dearly.

In summary, plastic is one of the greatest inventions of man, which has revolutionarily impacted mans life in dominating the earth, and has however destroyed the earth in return. As to whether plastic should be banned or not, again, mankind will benefit either way.

#### UGCD-105

Plastic bags are containers, that are made of thin, plastic film, flexible, non woven fabric or plastic textile. They are used for containing and transporting goods such as food, produce, chemicals and waste produce. Plastic bags, as they are very useful and helpful in our daily life activities like shopping, they also pose as threats to our environment and as quickly as possible be banned. Plastic bags are everywhere in our environment. When we go to purchase our groceries, we use plastic bags because they are convenient. It has gradually become part of our lives. Matters have been raised as to whether or not plastic bags be banned. Plastic bags have their pros and cons but concerns is to if it must be banned or not. The explanations below are the reasons as to why plastic bags should be banned.

To start, plastic bags are dreadful to aquatic, wildlife and other animals as well. Many are times where aquatic breeds mistaken plastic bags for food. The plastics, which are eating by these species, block their digestive system which affects their health through the contraction of some infections. This sometimes, suffocates the animals and lead to their death. Plastic bags which are carelessly littered are seen as food by cows, monkeys, dogs and pigs and fed upon. This prevents other real food from being digested in their stomach since their digestive systems are blocked by these plastics and cause them to die slowly.

Moreover, plastic bags are mounted into heaps leading to lots of health risk. The dumping areas turn to be the breeding place for insects and microorganisms that are sources of different disease that poses threats to human lives. The heaps lead to the increase in the number of mosquitoes and rats. Unfortunately, mosquitoes are the carriers of malaria parasites and other diseases which are infectious. They have proven to be the cause of the depletion of natural resources. Plastics bags also enter into drainage systems causing the blockage of gutter.

Furthermore, plastic bags when mixed up with the soil, declines the fertility rate of the soil. This has a significant impact on the agricultural produce and yield. The plastic bags blocks water and other essential plant nutrients needed for plant growth from penetrating into the soil. They also prevent the roots of plants from tapping already existing nutrients from the soil. If this continues without effective measures to put in place and to check this, farmers will continue to be at a loss.

Nevertheless, plastic bags that are not disposed at the appropriate designed places, makes our environment filthy and our gutters choked. Most of our cites are dwelling in filth since they do not dispose their waste in the appropriate manner. Some throw their refuse containing plastic bags on the

streets and others in the gutters. The plastic bags in the gutters prevents the easy flow of rain water. The rain water then direct itself to people's homes and shops destroying their properties. Although plastic bags pose lots of threats to human lives and it's environment, it is beneficial to humans.

To start, plastic bags are durable. Its durability talks about how it last for a long period of time. Owners of shops and supper markets use plastic bags to advertise their products by printing their business's name and other important details such us telephone numbers and locations on the plastic bags as a form of branding. Making changes is also easy.

Again, plastic bags can be melted down to produce other plastic material. Plastic bags can be melted to produce useful products. For instance, dust bins, plastic chairs, electric cables and the likes. However, is their cost on the environment worth it? What can be done is to wait and hope that, soon something or someone can come up with the idea on which way to reuse plastic bags in a more safe and cheaper means.

In all, the above claims, proves that, plastic bags are more harmful to humans, animals and aquatic breeds than being useful. Aside putting a ban on plastic bags, people must be educated on the side effects of plastic bags to human lives and others leaving creatures. They should practice using jute bags and cloth instead of plastic bags and believe you me this would go a long way to reduce the usage of plastic bags.

UGCD-106

Plastic bags are packaging materials made up of starch, plastic textile, thin and flexible plastic film. These bags were invented in the early 1960s by a Swedish engineer , Sten Gustaf Thulin with the aim of transporting goods such as foods, produce, powders and magazines, and these bags have only existed for one generation. The advantages and disadvantages of plastic bags are enormous , but the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

Resistivity, durability, light-weight storage and flexibility are significant advantages of plastic bags. Plastic bags are extremely durable and resistant to external influences and adverse weather conditions which makes the preservation of food and produce more effective. Since plastic packaging have exceptionally light-weight storage option that does not require much of space either, they are extremely easy to transport, thus reducing the carbon footprint during transportation. Plastics are also flexible which makes it easier for packaging and customizing foods and produce in a particular shape , size and style as per a customer's requirement.

On the other hand, plastic bags are harmful to the human society. Plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to decay completely , this makes the bags stay in the environments longer leading to the build-up of environmental damage. Plastic bags not only have adverse effects on our natural habitats , but have also been found to be responsible for the death of many animals; mainly on account of the suffocation encountered on eating them . These bags are durable materials and hard to eliminate once

used, and creates tremendous waste. Not only animals, infants and young children also lose their lives, on account of plastic bags. Since plastic bags are thin and airtight as well, children often end up blocking their mouths and nostrils with them. In case they are not being monitored by an adult, this may lead to suffocation and in some cases even death.

Understandably, plastic bags result in a significant number of disadvantages and must be curbed. For instance, the mortality rate of human and animal life is extreme as a result of plastic pollution and this may lead to low production in the country. Recycling is a significant way of curbing plastic pollution, this reduces the landfills in the society. Practicing clean up exercises is another way of controlling plastic waste; removing plastics from the ocean and preventing them from getting there check plastic pollution. Boycotting the use of more plastic bags by the government is important to save lives of humans and animals.

UGCD-107

Over the years, people needed something to enable them carry their possessions around with ease, thus bags were created as a solution to this problem. Before the invention of plastic bags, paper bags were being used but, it did not totally solve the problem. Paper bags easily tore when loaded with heavy or wet stuffs, they were not durable and were not resistant to natural decay, the production of paper bags also led to an alarming increase of trees being chopped yearly, leading to deforestation. There was a need to create something that would solve both problems therefore the invention of plastic bags. It was considered an alternative to paper bags however plastic bags though durable and resistant to natural decay brought a host of problems that proved dangerous to the natural world and human life. The introduction of plastic bags have done more harm than good to society and should be banned.

There is no denying the fact that plastic bags have proved effective for carrying goods from place to place with ease, can be used several times for different purposes, cheap, durable and long lasting but, compared to the harms plastic bags have had on the natural environment has proved to outweigh the benefits of plastic bags. The same properties of plastic bags which helped solve a host of problems gave way to other problems such as pollution and, endangering wildlife which have proven to be detrimental to the survival of the earth.

Plastic bags have caused pollution in water bodies, land and the air. Plastic bags are pollutants that have degraded life in the oceans, land and the air as well. The chemical structure plastic bags make them resistant to degradation and the ineffective disposal of plastic bags have led to high rate of pollution in the environment today. Due to high resistance to natural decay, plastic waste have accumulated over the years as there are no effective ways of disposing them. There are more plastic waste in our ocean bodies and they keep increasing as the years go by since they are in high demand due to their durable nature and how cheap they are. Every year tons of plastic waste are washed into the ocean and they pollute the

ocean. Also, when dumped at refuse dumps, the organic waste decomposes but plastic wastes take almost a 1000 years to decompose, therefore the land cannot be cultivated for agricultural purposes, thereby making the land a wasteland. In finding permanent avenues to get rid of plastic bags, burn them and the gases released causing the greenhouse effect and depletion of the ozone layer.

Also, plastic waste endanger wildlife and human life. Plastic bags are made from chemicals that are harmful to organic life on earth. Chemicals from plastic waste in landfills seep into the ground depleting the fertility of the land as it is poisonous to organic matter in the soil as well as seep into groundwater which is distributed to homes for consumption and other purposes and in the long run cause health complications. Moreover, plastic wastes in oceans and water bodies pose a threat to the survival of marine life as fishes and other sea creatures are caught in plastic bags and usually suffocate to death. Their habitats are also destroyed as the oceans are polluted and the release of harmful chemicals from the plastic bags harm these creatures as well.

All in all the negative impact far outweigh the positive impact plastic bags have had on the environment and should be banned. There are other alternatives that are far safer and healthier for the environment than plastic bags such as non woven and woven polypropylene bags which are safer for the environment. Laws should be entrenched and enforced against the use of plastic bags. With these solutions, the environment will be safer from the toxic harm that plastic bags pose on the environment.

#### UGCD-108

In our everyday lives, we look for the easiest, cheapest, and most convenient ways to carry our commodities, clothes, and foodstuffs. Over the years, plastic bags seem to be serving this purpose for humanity. However, these plastic bags are non-biodegradable and so poses an environmental and ecological threat to mankind, both land and aquatic animals and plants as well. Many methods have been put in place to curb the dangers it has on the planet, however, the problem persists. Therefore plastics should be banned legally to end the misery it brings to the world, and the reason for this motive is discussed below.

Plastic bags should be banned because they pose a serious environmental damage. They are not usually disposed of properly and lead to environmental pollution. It takes about 500 years for the soil to decompose plastic bags and so the plastic bags in the soil distorts the integrity and reduces the fertility of the soil, thus reducing the survival and growth of plants. When the plastic bags are burned, they emit chemicals that may lead to respiratory diseases in humans. Also when plastic bags get their way into water bodies, they are sometimes taken alongside food by aquatic animals, which leads to their suffocation and death eventually. Therefore plastic bags should be banned since it poses a fatal damage to the environment.

Also another reason plastics should be banned is, it is usually littered by people. Most people do not care about how they dispose of these plastic bags and so end up dirtying the environment, causing floods and a lot of diseases. The aesthetic value of our communities is lost and becomes uncomfortable for habitation. Also, they get clogged in gutters, leading to floods when there is a heavy downpour, for example, in the June third disaster in Ghana. Those plastics bags are sometimes heaped and serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes and other disease-causing insects. These insects end up causing epidemics such as malaria in many countries. It is potentially deadly to allow the continued use of plastic bags and so they should be banned.

Plastic bags should again be banned because it is a great waste. About 10% of oil supplied yearly is used in the production of plastic bags and only a small amount may be recycled. This means that a huge proportion of our valuable resources are used in the production of plastic bags; when maintained are not needed. Chemicals and compounds used in the production of plastic bags can be used in other fields of production. Our natural resource should be used to produce other renewable products rather than producing plastic bags.

To conclude the general public should be sensitized on the harmful effects of plastic bags such as those mentioned above, paper bags or cloth bags should be used instead of plastic bags, suppliers of plastic bags should be tasked hugely to reduce them being handed to consumers. These measures would help minimize the damage being caused as we look forward to a ban on its usage.

#### UGCD-109

A Plastic is a light strong material that is produced by chemical processes and can be formed into shapes when heated. There are different types of plastic be used to make different kinds of objects. Examples include; plastic bags, plastic toys, plastic bowls and a whole lot. Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production overwhelms the world to deal with them. Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collections systems are often inefficient or non-existent, but the developed world especially in countries with low recycling rates also have trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. I will like to elaborate on some reasons why plastic bags must be banned. Plastic bags should be banned due to the following reasons; water pollution and destruction of aquatic animals, land pollution and degradation and plastics bags are harmful to human health.

First and foremost, plastics bags should be banned because they pollute water bodies, plastics bags go through a chemical process which make it unsafe for drinking and also becomes a threat, and it is harmful to animals that live in the water. In Ghana disposing of plastic is a huge menace. Most people tend to dispose of plastics into water bodies. This act make water bodies unclean hence aquatic lives are threaten, it either they leave to find other homes which is much safer and clean or they lose their lives.

Furthermore, plastic bags left on the land surface pollute the land and makes it dirty as well making the land infertile. The soil gradually loses it fertility; hence it does not improve on the growth of plants. Plastic bags however clutter on the land which eventually degrades the soil. A plastic bag on the surface of the earth takes a longer period of time to discompose as compared to the other materials. This makes it unsafe for plants and farmers tend to spend more money on tilting the land for cultivation.

In addition, plastic bags are harmful to the human health. Plastic bags affect human health because toxic chemicals leach out of plastics and are found in the human blood and tissue of nearly all the people in the world. Exposure to them is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments

.

In conclusion, the reasons why plastic bags must be banned include; water pollution and destruction of aquatic animals, land pollution and degradation and plastic bags are harmful to human lives. I believe that these are enough reasons why plastics bags must be banned to make the world a better and a safer place for all living organisms.

#### UGCD-110

Technology has evolved over the years in such a way that a lot of raw materials have been processed into finished products. Among these finished products are plastic bags. These bags have become a part of our daily lives, aside these bags being useful to us, they pose a very great threat to our environment and our health. This essay seeks to make it clear why plastic bags should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags which are no more useful are usually not disposed of properly with most of them ending up in our various water bodies. These plastic bags end up polluting the water and also put aquatic animals in danger. Aquatic animals mistake these plastic bags for food, often feeding on them. Plastic once ingested cannot be digested and ends up getting stuck in the guts of these aquatic animals causing harm to them. Also these bags that end up in our water bodies release toxic chemicals into the water body compromising the quality of the water making it unsafe for humans and animals.

In addition, Plastic bags which end up being dumped on the land damage the soil. As plastic bags do not dissolve or degrade, when they are dumped onto the land they break into smaller forms and get buried in the soil making the soil water unsafe for plant uptake. Also the smaller forms of plastic that get buried in the soil take up space in the soil structure making the uptake of minerals and nutrients difficult for plants as their roots cannot penetrate the plastic stuck in the soil. Also the rest of the plastic that does not get stuck in the soil is usually burnt, releasing a lot of chemicals into the atmosphere which will affect the plants.

Finally, some of these plastic bags are burnt after use and when they are burnt they release toxic gases into the atmosphere, making the air unsafe for breathing. This polluted air causes a lot of respiratory diseases. These chemicals also can cause certain skin and eye irritations. Also, when these chemicals are released into the atmosphere it causes changes in the atmosphere, making the atmosphere hotter than usual. These changes in the atmosphere cause a rise in the sea levels, causing the most lands around the sea to be flooded. Also the flooding will cause the farm soils to be contaminated, the flooding also can destruction of habitats of the people living around the sea and also cause danger to their health.

As we are moving for the ban on plastic bags we must note that the ban is not sufficient for the safety of our environment. We must go in for materials that are ecofriendly and also can be recycled as they are more safe for our environment our wildlife. Also we should avoid all things that are dangerous to our environment for a healthier, safer and better life for ourselves and our future generations.

UGCD-111

Plastic bags are everywhere in our environment . In our modern society, urbanization and industrialization have led to the usage of plastics in such a way that plastics have become a part of us in our day to day life. Plastic bags are very common commodities that are given for free when we purchase our groceries. We use plastic bags because of how convenient they are. In spite of its convenience, these plastic bags have posed great danger to the environment and to human health. This has triggered the reason why plastic bags should be banned.

To begin, environmental pollution. Plastic bags have huge impact on land and water. The inability of people to properly dispose of plastics have affected the environment negatively. Plastics do not undergo the natural process of decomposition due to its non-biodegradable properties; hence, it paves the way to severe environmental pollution, spoils the soil and its fertility. Not only do plastic bags fill up our landfill sites where they will remain forever more, but people throw them into the streets. They accept plastic bags when they do not need to and once they are out of the shops, they take out the items and litter the streets with the unwanted plastic bags. This plastic bags get into our water bodies and pollute them. Gutters get choked up with plastic bags when the wind blows.

Also, Humans and animals suffer. It is very obvious that , this plastic bags would affect living things. Every plastic bag which looks attractive are toxic making food products harmful. For instance, in Ghana, food vendors sell hot food in plastic bags which is harmful to consumers. The heat from the food melts the chemicals that is very dangerous for human consumption. Used bags that are thrown onto the roads are consumed by animals such as cows , goats since they think it is edible. This can cause the animals to choke which can lead to illnesses and eventually death.

Furthermore, poor waste management. In Ghana, many people have poor waste management skills. Approximately 18% of plastics are recycled. Their Inability to manage wastes have left the rest in choking drains, polluting the soil, land and water. Plastics when burnt give out very harmful chemicals such as carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide which is very harmful to humans when inhaled into the body.

To conclude. The banning of plastics bags does not mean it will end totally. This will only control individual use of plastics bags because people are irresponsible when it comes to the disposal thus causing environmental pollution. Banning the use of plastics will reduce the exposure of man to a harmful environment. Paper bags and other recycled products can be used.

UGCD-112

Plastic bag have always been part of the lives of humans in terms of trade and keeping food items. Some sees it useful since it is a convenient way to carry our purchased goods, while others sees it as a threat to the environment. The reason for this essay seeks to discuss the banning of the use of plastic bags.

To begin, plastic bags cause environmental pollution. They are the most common litter one can find, almost everywhere. Due to its lightweight, it is able to be carried anywhere and tangled in trees, floating in water and mostly chock our drainage systems. Plastic bags have always been the major cause of flood in urban areas due to the choked gutters by plastic bags.

Also, plastic bags should be banned because, there is a better option. Aside plastic bags, there are shopping bags or reusable bags and baskets for shopping. The reusable bags are very affordable and can be used for as long as one likes. It is durable and washable. The idea of the reusable bags are also less expensive. The seller or trader can use the money for plastic bags for other groceries to be sold. While the individual on the other hand can get the reusable bags to avoid the use of so many plastic bags.

However, plastic bags are weightless. Because they are lightweight, it is easy to carry groceries with them. They can also be disposed easily by burning. They burn easily due to its lightweight. Plastic bags are easily carried away by force and difficult to recycle, so, they can easily be burnt to avoid pollution.

Furthermore, plastic bags are water resistant. For instance, whenever it is about to rain, most traders and hustlers tie their phones in plastic bags and others also put on an overall made of plastic bag as a waterproof to prevent them from getting wet.



In conclusion, due to the advantages of the use of plastic bags as stated in the fourth and fifth paragraph, which are: plastic bags are weightless and water resistant, it is good to use plastic bag. However, due to the disadvantages of the use of plastic bags stated in the second and third paragraph, which are: plastic bags causes environmental pollution and there is a better option, I stand with the opinion that, plastic bags should be banned to protect the lives of humans and wildlife.

UGCD-113

The modern lightweight shopping bag is the invention of Swedish engineer Sten Gustaff Thulin. In the early 1960s, he developed a method of a simple one-piece bag by folding, welding and dye-cutting a flat tube of plastic for the company Celloplast of Norrköping, Sweden. His invention is known in modern day as “plastic bag.” A plastic bag is a type of container made of thin flexible material, especially one with handles supplied to transport purchase items. The presence of plastic bags has led to employment by manufacturers of plastic bags, revenue for the government and cleaner means of packaging. Although plastic bags serve many useful purposes in many different ways as they are inexpensive, they have left behind much damage and continue to pose a threat to existence of life.

To begin, there is a threat to human life from suffocation by plastic bags. Many accidents such as suffocation and subsequent death have occurred from plastic bags being wrongly placed. Although most manufacturers strongly discourage the handling of plastic bags by children for a number of reasons and even go as far as putting the instructions which mention ‘Keep Away from Children’ and other disclaimer signs on the plastic bags, they can only go this far as their jobs are to produce plastic bags and not to monitor its usage by the consumer. Cases of death by suffocation, some by accident, others intentional have all been recorded. However, no matter what the case may have been these deaths could all have been avoided had plastic bags been absent from the equation.

Furthermore, plastic bags cause a wide range of environmental problems especially when they find their way into the ocean. They pose a threat to the world’s marine species and aquatic life altogether. Research by the United Nations Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, estimated that plastic constitutes about 80 percent of the world’s marine pollution. Besides the fact that they destroy the beauty of the ocean, they are quite commonly mistaken for food residues by these animals. Aquatic animals can become entangled in or ingest plastic debris causing suffocation and starvation. The ingestion of plastic may also lead to the extinction of certain species discovered and undiscovered.

Lastly, plastic bags cause a strain on government expenditure due to the financial burden they come with. Since plastic bags can be easily used and disposed of, they are often found to be littering the streets, hanging from tree branches, clogging drains and also constitutes about 60 percent solid waste at dump sites. Despite the provision of dustbins at vantage locations, the government still has to employ persons to take care of these plastic waste. The government in partnership with waste management companies such as Zoom Lion employ people to undertake this sanitation.

In conclusion, the disadvantages of plastic bags far outweigh the advantages as they pose a threat to human life, cause a wide range of environmental problems on marine life and cause a financial strain on the government. Plastic bags have caused more harm than good and should be banned.

UGCD-114

Plastic bags are everywhere in our environment. We use plastic bags in our everyday activities because of their convenience. In fact, they have eventually become part of us in our modern lives.

However, the convenience of these plastic bags is negatively affecting the health of humans. Several cities worldwide, have begun banning the use of the plastic bags due to its negative effects. Cities such as China have totally banned the use of plastics. Other cities such as Bangladesh and India have basically banned the use and sale of polythene bags which has a thickness fewer than fifty microns. Here are some reasons why plastic bags should be banned. They are however illustrated below.

Firstly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. There are some chemicals that distract the normal functioning of the hormones in the body. Most plastic bags contain some pollutants such as PCBs(Polychlorinated biphenyl)together with PAHs(Polycyclicaromatic hydrocarbons)which are hormone- disturbing. This however causes harm to the health of humans.

Secondly, plastic bags do not only pollute our land but also the water bodies. Plastic bags are usually light weight and can travel long distances by either water or by wind. The wind blows these plastic bags and ruin a whole area. These little litters get caught up in between trees, fences and floats in water bodies thus moving to the world's ocean. This however is not suitable to our lands and water bodies.

Furthermore, Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life such as sea turtles and fish. They often mistake the plastic bag and other substances or plastic materials for food and end up consuming them. Thus, when these plastic materials are consumed, their digestive system gets congested leading to the development of health infections and death when there is presence of suffocation. It is also likely that the animals can easily be wrapped up inside the plastic. This however is not beneficial to the health of the animals.

Lastly, plastic bags consume a lot of energy during production. The total amount of energy required to drive a car for one kilometer is equivalent to the energy required to produce nine plastic bags. It is logical that these non renewable resources are used to make plastic bags when the typical useful life of each plastic bag is around twelve times. This however shows how energy consuming plastic bags are. In conclusion, I therefore share opinion and stand that plastic bags should be banned because they cause more harm than good to the environment.

#### UGCD-115

Plastics exist everywhere in our environment. When we go to purchase our foodstuffs, we use plastic bags because they are convenient. As a matter of fact, in our modern lives, it has become part of us. However, the accessibility of these plastic bags come at a very high cost to the environment which affects human health and the environment negatively. The ban on plastics does not really mean its use will stop. The ban is to control the use because individuals are irresponsible when it comes to disposal causing environmental harm. Several countries globally have begun banning the use of plastic bags whereas some have enforced restricting laws against the use of plastic bags because of the negative effects plastics imposes on the environment as a whole. As a result, the use of plastics have become dangerous and should be banned.

To begin, the use of plastics are dangerous and harmful to human health. According to research, every person on earth is likely to have micro plastics in his or her body. This is because our seafoods, drinking water and soft drinks are all contaminated with these plastic particles. Our immunity do not know how to react to the increased concentration of plastics which imposes more pathogens into our body. Also, plastic products contain substances like dyes which are used to change the colour of plastic bags. These substances and chemicals are harmful which affect the kidney and proper functioning of other organs.

Second, plastics are very difficult to recycle. Plastics are not easy to break down. This is because most recycling machineries do not have the capacity to recycle plastics and end up not accepting them. Due to this, most districts and countries at large do not have the resources to include the recycling of plastics in their waste management routine. In other words, plastic bags are difficult and expensive to deal with.

Third, plastics endanger animals both wildlife and aquatic life. Animals often mistaken plastics as food for them. Dumping of plastic waste into waterbodies affects marine life. These creatures try to absorb the plastics thinking it is food and as such have a high chance to lose their lives. Furthermore, lots of birds are seen caught in these plastic bags and are not able to fly or feed which can lead to their death. The miserable part is that, unlike humans, these animals do not know they eat something harmful to them which can kill them slowly.

In the final analysis, there is a need for the use of plastics to be banned or regulated with laws due to the harm plastics can impose. It is harmful to human life as well as wildlife and marine life. Recycling of plastics is very difficult and the use of it should be reduced. Also, citizens need to be educated on why they should reduce the use of much plastic products. It is only when the people know the dangers and risk that plastics brings to the environment, they will decide to follow the ban cautiously to avoid further jeopardizing lives.

## UGCD-116

Plastics are a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic organic compounds that can be molded into solid objects. The most common form of packaging worldwide is a plastic bag. It is a type of container made of thin, flexible, plastic film used for containing and transporting goods. Although plastic bags are valuable assets in everyday life, they are banned in most countries worldwide since they pose major threats to the planet and its inhabitants.

First of all, plastic bags cause environment pollution. Plastic bags are the main components of choked gutters, which cause floods. Due to their synthetic nature and long decomposition, littering the environment with plastic bags contaminates the soil and prevents plants from gaining the sufficient nutrients needed for growth. All living creatures depend on plants for either food or oxygen for their survival. If the lands are waste-filled, plant life would perish, tremendously threatening the balance of the ecosystem. Due to insufficient dumping sites for waste, the sewage and rubbish are chucked into the sea, posing a significant hazard to aquatic life. The carelessness of people in their disposal of plastic bags also creates dirty and unhealthy communities.

Additionally, plastic bags are non-biodegradable. They cannot be effectively broken down into harmless residue, making their disposition an immense task. Largely due to their irreversible chemical bond of polymers, plastics such as plastic bags, disposable cups and syringes are some of the main unrecyclable plastics. Regardless of the heat intensity applied, unrecyclable plastics can never change their shapes. They remain the same.

Lastly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Micro-plastics are usually found in human excrement and this is as a result of numerous drinks and food containing plastic build-ups. The raw micro-plastics are exposed to various harmful synthetics before their arrival at the chosen destinations. The inorganic dyes used in plastic items contain amounts of metals such as lead, which is dangerous to the human body, particularly the kidneys. Whenever ingested, these synthetic compounds are recorded to be the cause of the consequences with the ordinary hormone elements of the human body.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that plastic bags have made our lives simpler from multiple points of view, however the use of plastic bags has become an imminent catastrophe which needs immediate address. Plastic bags should be banned because they cause environmental pollution, they are non-biodegradable and harmful to human beings. They can be substituted with materials such as paper bags, which are more environmentally friendly.

Plastic bags are the appropriate way to fetch our acquired goods when one goes for shopping. They are part of our daily lives and we do not tend to think about its negative impact on humans and the natural environment. In sooth, plastics are used in every minute around the globe but in the actual context, instead of plastics to make our lives easy, these plastics are the basic cause of various issues like not easy to recycle, environmental pollution and non-renewable resources and contribution to climate change.

Firstly, as plastic bags tend to get caught in recycling machinery, most recycling facilities do not have the capacity to recycle them. Plastic bags are considered by many recycling facilities, the number one contaminant and their removal from the recycling stream costs municipalities since plastic bags recycling requires a specialized equipment that can break down the plastic and mould it into a new product, most municipalities do not have the budget to include their recycling in their waste management program. So plastic bag recycling facilities are few and far, which makes transportation expensive. As a result, the recycling rate for plastic bag is expensive which has made it an uneasy to recycle.

Secondly, plastic bags have an impact on land and water. The population of ocean and streams by the plastic bags have an influence on the food chain. Plants and aquatic animals take incomplete substance in oceans. Human beings then catch sea foods and eat which is very dangerous. Some of the big fishes like sharks and whales are washed to the shores dead after consuming the plastic bags which they thought it to be a zoo. Also the discharge of plastic pollution hampers the continuous flow of rain water with regards to the land. Humans discharge solid or liquid waste materials on land leading to loss of fertility for agriculture.

Lastly, plastic bags are made from non-renewable resources and contribute to climate change. Since plastics are non renewable, it has been difficult to be replaced by natural means at a quick enough step to keep up with utilization. Majority of plastic objects are made of polythene, a substance which is obtained from crude oil purifying and natural gas processes. Oil and natural gas are considered to be a non renewable resource which is asocial with fossil energy sources which are formed when animals and plants die and were gently hidden underground by stratified rocks. They discharge greenhouse gases which contribute to global climatic change when they are extracted and produced from fossil energy sources.

In conclusion, plastics have made individual lives simple. They blow around on roads and orderly end up in rivers, seas, oceans and streams. These plastic bags can be so dangerous to aquatic animals such as whales and sharks that consume them where these plastic bags look like jelly fish and zoo which can be harmful to individuals when they consume such marine animals.

Plastics are one of the most common materials used in the everyday life for packaging of goods.

Plastics are synthetic materials made from organic polymers such as polythene, polyvinyl chloride and many more. Example of plastic bags is high density polythene. Plastic bags are of importance to humans but after critical examination, it has been confirmed that plastics are more dangerous to humans although they are beneficial, the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages hence plastic bags should be banned from being used. Plastic bags have become part of us now but there are certain negative effects of it and

these are the reasons why plastic bags should be banned : plastic bags globally are pollution, plastic bags are toxic to human health and plastic bags affect aquatic animals.

One negative impact of plastic bags globally are pollution. Especially within the developing countries, due to the poor waste management in some countries plastics bags are burnt after use that releases harmful gases into the atmosphere causing air pollution causes diseases to humans. Example of a disease caused by these gases is lung cancer and many more. Also plastic bags cause land pollution when littered around after being used making the streets untidy and plastic bags cause water pollution. Due to the nature of these plastic bags it is difficult to decompose and when it is left around it migrates and settles in water bodies like rivers and many contaminating water bodies which make them unsafe for human consumption. This is the reason why plastic bags should be banned from being used.

More over plastic bags are toxic to human health. Another negative effect of plastic bags is the toxic or poisonous chemicals present in them such as lead, dioxin and many more. These toxic causes cancer, births defects and other diseases. Illnesses triggered by plastic bags are sometimes chronic and very difficult to cure. Most food joints serve food in plastic bags and the chemicals in the plastics contaminates the food because the toxins in the plastic bags migrates fast into the food causing the above diseases. This is why plastic bags should be banned.

Plastic bags affects aquatic animals. Plastic bags are hazards to the aquatic world for the reason that they tend to suffocate the fishes within the water. The fishes are unable to respire as they must and also ingest these chemicals and becomes poisonous for human consumption. Also the aquatic animals swallow these plastics bags making them feel uneasy to survive. For example, when fishes swallow plastic bags it hatches their eggs and kills them. This is why plastic bags should be band.

To conclude, I am no longer against the truth that plastic bags help in making our life higher however in addition they pose negative and harmful impact on the equal life they seem to make higher. I am substantially of the opinion that plastic bags ought to be banned perpetually because the effects are evidently seen in the points laid above.

Plastic bags have become ubiquitous in the world. The average human's daily activity would require a purchase of an item either food or accessory which always more than often ends up in a plastic bag. The fact is, plastic bags are everywhere now. However, the ease in using plastic bags does not change the harm it imposes on the environment and the health threat it poses on the society. The dangers right from production through to use and disposal is overwhelming to the convenience of usage hence plastic bags should be banned. This has led many communities, cities and even nations to ban plastic bags.

Plastic bags lead to all forms of environmental pollution. Plastic bags are made from non-renewable sources and so cannot be degraded by biological means or natural methods. They are usually termed non-bio-degradable. This innate nature of plastic bags causes pollution to the land, air and water. The disposal of plastic bags has resulted to littering all over the world. Large acres of fertile lands have been turned to refuse sites with different grades of plastic bags as rubbish. The soil cannot breakdown these plastics and suffers continual pollution as they remain in the soil over the years. When it rains, these plastics are washed into the sea, rivers and lakes which lead to other complications. The water is left polluted and even some marine animals lose their lives as they choke on these bags. Also, an attempt to dispose through burning causes air pollution. Plastic bags are made of different elements which release toxins into the atmosphere when in contact with heat. As the air is poisoned, it leads to greenhouse effects which changes climatic conditions and on a larger scale negatively affects the environment.

Also, plastic bags are harmful to human health. The carcinogenic nature of plastic bags makes it dangerous for use especially in the packaging of food. Foods which come into contact with plastic bags usually test positive for poisoning. This is because, radiations from plastic bags are released when exposed to hot food. The sealed food in the bags become the only surface for the emissions of radiations to remain on and undoubtedly leading to poison. Poisoned food can cause cancer, skin rashes or irritations and allergic reactions after consumption. Inhaling smoke from burning of plastic bags also leads to some respiratory disorders. The toxins and poisonous gases emitted from combustion of plastic bags can be very hazardous and in extreme cases prove to be lethal. It is without a reasonable doubt that, the high cost to the environment and the effects on human health cannot be overlooked for the convenience in using plastic bags. Many nations like China have banned the use of plastic bags and others like India and Bangladesh have laid restrictions and specifications on the production and use of plastic bags. China still stands top of the world in economy and production even after laying a ban. This only proves that a ban on the use of plastic bag is not a step back in technology but rather a solution to stop an environmental and human populace enemy.

UGCD-120

Plastic bags are non-biodegradable materials that are useful to humans in many ways. They are commonly used to help convey and transport items conveniently in markets, stores, restaurants and wherever there are transportable items. However, because they do not decompose easily, they have become very harmful to the environment since disposing of them is a huge challenge and struggle. This

goes against the environmental conservation priorities of many countries hence causing the call to resort to less dangerous options and ban plastic bags.

Firstly, a whole lot of plastic bags usually end up at the bottom of our seas or floating in them. The seas are home to a diverse number of creatures such as fish, mammals and other invertebrates. Aquatic animals often mistake these toxic plastics for food and eat them, causing complications in their systems. These plastic bags are responsible for the poisoning and deaths of scores of sea creatures and marine species every year.

Furthermore, the disposal of plastic bags over time in an area tends to have massive negative effects on the land and its soil. When plastic waste lays around and mixes with the soil, it could easily cause the soil to be infertile by preventing proper air flow through the soil. Polluted soil is a disaster because humans need fertile soil to sow food. Plants also need fertile soil to grow. Domestic animals and all herbivores for that matter are also affected because they directly depend on the growth of plants from the soil to graze.

Also, plastic bags are dangerous to the environment because of their non-biodegradable nature. This directly leads to massive pollution especially in cities where these plastic bags are most common. Pollution in cities in turn lead to other unfortunate disasters such as choked drainage systems and flooding in the worst case scenario.

Lastly, the cost of the production of plastic bags is very high even though it is evidently unnecessary. Research studies estimate that production of plastic bags requires the use of about ten percent of the world's annual supply of oil. Only a meagre fraction of this number of plastic bags produced are usually recyclable. Our resources can rather be invested into the funding of more important projects that will actually benefit the world with less destructive effects on the environment such as a basic necessity like petroleum.

In conclusion, we have seen that the effects that plastic bags have on our environments are destructive and almost irreversible. Though its usage has become an almost inevitable component in our day to day lives, we need to take it upon ourselves to initiate this change by using reusable bags such as shoulder bags, straw baskets and bags made out of fabric. If we stand a chance of winning this war against plastics bags, we need to take action now and effectively place a ban on these products before it gets out of hand and suffocates the life out of our beautiful planet.

## UGCD-121

When they were first introduced, plastic bags became widely spread and used all around the world. They have served a great purpose over the years and are still doing in our present times. With the advancement of human knowledge in fields like ecology, it has now been realized that plastics bags have done more harm than good in various ways. Plastics bags are destroying our planet and if nothing is done against their use, we are all going to face more serious consequences.

Plastics bags are badly disposed and are polluting our streets and soil. Most traders use plastics bags to retail goods to their customers. The customers, after getting their goods are not conscient of how to properly dispose the plastics bags. They dump the bags anywhere and they are easily carried by the wind all around the streets. They do not only make the street look nasty, but they also cause soil pollution. They prevent the plants growing in the soil to grow properly. Humans and animals directly

depend on plants for survival. If plastics bags are not banned, sooner or later their effects will be out of hand.

In addition, plastics bags are also a waste of resources since they are non-biodegradable. They are made of petroleum, a resource which cannot be replenished once diminished. They are also non-biodegradable which means that no matter how they are disposed they will always remain in our planet and continue to pollute one way or the other. The precious resources that are wasted to produce them could be used for a different purpose that will be safer and less harmful to humans. The labour and machines used to produce those bags could be used to produce safe products for the benefit of man. Plastics bags are a waste of resources and should be banned.

Plastics bags are life threatening and are killing a lot of living things. Many animals in the sea have been killed by plastics bags which landed in the sea. Fishes and other animals living in water have had their habitat destroyed by plastics bags. Animals living on land have also died from suffocation due to plastic bags. Even some human beings have been killed by suffocation due to plastic bags. When plastic bags are burnt, they produce harmful and very toxic fumes that, when inhaled by animals, is extremely dangerous to their health and may result in respiratory problems. Plastics bags are very dangerous and are doing too much harm to us humans by killing living things.

The harm they have caused for many years should be ended as soon as possible by banning their use. We cannot continue to live in a world where plastics bags are still legal and have more disadvantages than advantages. Safer alternatives to them include paper bags which should be made compulsory. If nothing is done the earth is going to suffer the consequences. Actions must be taken now, otherwise the end will be pitiful.

UGCD-122

Plastic bags are commonly used for packing multiple items. Today between 500 billion and 1.5 trillion plastic shopping bags are used each year worldwide. Despite how durable and flexible plastic bags are there has been a widespread discussion on whether plastic bags should be banned. However, this proposition should be supported because plastic bags contribute to the destruction of the environment and pose serious threats to mankind as well as wildlife. Also, there are better alternatives for plastic bags.

One main factor that justifies a ban on plastic bags is that they contribute substantially to environmental degradation through plastic pollution. Plastics can persist for approximately 1000 years without biodegrading. Instead, plastics deteriorate into tiny particles called microplastics and nanoplastics and these tiny particles are often driven by the wind and may as a result pollute the air. In addition, an estimate of less than 10% of all the plastic materials the world has ever produced such as plastic bags are recycled. The remaining are disposed as plastic waste into water bodies, landfills and



drainage systems. As a result, open waters and gutters which are key components of the environment have been deformed.

Another major factor that promotes a ban on plastic bags is that it poses health and death threats to humans and wildlife. Every human on earth is ingesting nearly 2000 particles of plastic that enter the human fragile body from water, food and even the air (according to an academic study funded by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature). These particles consist of chemicals that could lead to severe health problems such as cancer, hormone disruption and developmental delays. Furthermore, the consumption of plastics in open water by aquatic organisms as well as on landfills and in choked gutters by animals on land may terminate their lives. For instance, last year, whales in Italy and the Philippines died just weeks apart, their stomachs were filled with indigestible plastic bags. Finally, harmful chemical components of plastic bags such as Styrene, Phthalates and Bisphenol A which causes diabetes and diseases of the heart and liver could be transferred unto hot edible items that are packed in it therefore plastic bags should be banned.

The last major factor that supports the banning of plastic bags is the availability and adoption of several feasible and less costly alternatives. In recent times, a significant number of paper bags have been produced and widely patronized. Paper bags often biodegrades within a shorter period as compared to that of plastic bags and do not contain harmful chemical components. In addition, the cost of paper bag production is lower than that of plastic bag. Similarly, aluminum bags can be recycled multiple times therefore, they are also suitable replacements for plastic bags.

To summarize, plastic bag regardless of its useful properties may, degrade the environment through plastic pollution, endanger humans as well as animals and can be substituted with reliable and more affordable alternatives. These negative effects of plastic bags far outweigh the benefits therefore, plastic bags should be banned.

Plastic bag by definition is a type of packaging made of thin, flexible, plastic film used for containing and transporting food, waste and consumer goods. Plastic bags have been greatly used over the years. In regards to reports made by the Environmental Protection Agency, over one billion plastic billion plastic bags are used over a period of one year. This has led to the pollution of the environment due to improper disposal of used plastic bags. Concerns raised by the World Health Organization indicate that the use of plastic bags and its disadvantageous hazards could affect many lives health wise. I write to propose the ban on the use of plastic bags.

To start, plastic bags have been useful around the world in spite of its negative effects. Compared to other types of containers such as paper bags and cloth bags, the use of plastic bags is more convenient due to their lightness in nature. Again, plastic bags are durable and waterproof, meaning that they protect its content from rain or water. Plastic bags also occupy less space, they are handled easily and using them for packaging is a lot easier as compared to other types of containers. Among other benefits, plastic bags have helped the economy of many countries. The manufacturing and sales of plastic bags have helped the economy financially.

However, plastic bags have done more harm than good to our environment and human health. Plastics bags do not decompose easily and due to improper disposal, they chock gutters in most communities and societies which prevents the free flow of water in gutters. As a result, these choked gutters hold stagnant waters which become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Also, communities get flooded when there is a heavy pour of rain. Plastic bags become brittle and break into smaller pieces over time. These smaller pieces of plastics get into the soil and interfere with the food chain of animals by choking animals that feed on grass lands such as cows. Some of the pieces also get into water bodies and release toxic chemicals into them. When water from these polluted sources is used for domestic purposes, it inadvertently affects human health.

Finally, there is the need for the use of plastic bags to be banned. There are chemicals used in manufacturing plastic bags which can be absorbed by the human body. One of the causes is that majority of small businesses that are into the sales of cooked food serve their customers in plastic containers. Again, burning plastics with the intention of getting rid of them also tend to pollute the air by releasing toxic chemicals. Day in day out, plastic bags are used and produced

all the time. Unfortunately, they are piling up in different places all around the world which is becoming a menace to combat with, hence, the need for the use of plastic bags to be banned.

In conclusion, paper bags, cloth bags and other types of containers should replace the use of plastic bags. Before the advent of the use of plastic bags, there were locally made containers out of wood such as baskets for carrying and transporting items. Broad leaves which had nutritional values were used for serving dishes. Alternatively, such local means could be encouraged by the state holders. In this way, the environment becomes a more safe and healthy place for living.

UGCD-124

A plastic bag is a type of container made of thin, flexible, plastic film, Nonwoven fabric, or plastic textile. They are used for containing and transporting goods such as foods, produce, powders, ice, drinks, chemicals, and waste. It is a common form of packaging.

Plastic bags are a key cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-disposable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for several years polluting it immensely. It has become very essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe such as Rwanda, Kenya, China, Taiwan, and Macedonia have put a ban on the plastic bag. However, the problem has not been solved absolutely because the implementation of these measures has not been as successful.

Plastic bags have a bad reputation and also have many effects on human lives. Plastic bags are destroying nature due to their harmful effect. Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. The plastic bags entering into the water bodies are a major cause of water pollution. However plastic bags left on the land are unable to decompose and it makes the environment untidy. In addition, animals and marine creatures unknowingly consume plastic particles along with their

food. Research shows that waste plastic bags have been a major reason for untimely animal deaths. Moreover, the production of plastic bags releases toxic chemicals. These are the main cause of serious illness. The polluted environment is a major reason for various diseases such as Cholera which are spreading easily in human beings. Lastly, waste plastic bags are the main reason for trapping the drains and sewers, especially during rains. This can result in a flood-like situation and disrupt the normal life of people.

There are major reasons why the government of various countries has come up with strict measures to limit the use of plastic. Waste plastic bags are polluting the land and water immensely. Places where plastic bags are being manufactured face a whole lot challenges because the air is being polluted and it has repercussion on their respiratory system. A town in a Western part of Ghana called Apemanim has been facing this problem since is a well known for the production of plastic bags. Plastic bags have become a threat to the life of animals living on earth as well as in water. Chemicals released by waste plastic bags enter the soil and make it infertile. Plastic bags lead to the drainage problem. Gutters are being choked by plastic bags.

Although plastic is becoming a big threat for all of us, still this problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people do not look at the long term effect of these small, easy to carry bags they use in their everyday life. Besides all of these effects, people keep using plastic bags due to its convenience. But now everyone has to completely stop using the plastic bag to save our environment and earth.

As defined by the oxford dictionary, plastics are wide range of synthetic or non-synthetic organic compounds that are malleable and can be molded into solid objects. Plastic bags have recently gained the limelight as the cheapest and readily available packaging material in most countries. The most commonly used type in most developing countries is the traditional plastic bags which are usually made from polythene. The use of plastic bags is advantageous in many ways, that is; it saves time and space, it is cost effective, and also profitable.. It is quite worrying that plastics which was anticipated to be of positive influence in the lives of people and manufacturing industry could not stick to its purpose. The disadvantages and adverse effects related to the use of plastic bags far outweighs its advantages and benefits. Thus plastics should be banned. The reasons are: they choke gutters , they are harmful to human health, they contribute to climate change and spread of awareness.

One reason why plastic bags should be banned is because they choke gutters in our communities. As said earlier, the use of plastic bags has increased in our various societies. Due to this, they are not properly disposed especially in our local communities. Inappropriate disposal of plastic bags will not cause only a dirty environment but there will also be a lot of drains and gutters. This choked drains and gutters are supposed to guide waste and other substances which are in their liquid form out of the community but due to the plastic bags in them, natural disasters like flood befall the community. This can cause residents a huge deal of property and even lives. This is one of the reasons why plastics should be banned.

Secondly, they are harmful to human health. Plastic bags contain some toxic chemicals such as Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) which can disrupt the normal functioning of hormones in the body. Other substances such as Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon(PAH's) which is hormone disrupting. When the animals in the seas and ocean consume them, they move through the food web then later into human beings who eat marine animals. These poisonous chemicals bio-accumulates in the sea and fish systems as they are exposed to them in the ocean waters. Humans

therefore develop cancers and other serious health conditions after preparing and consuming the harmful product.

Thirdly, another reason why plastic bags should be banned is they contribute to climate change. Almost all the plastics are made from polypropylene which is a raw material from petroleum and natural gas. Since the materials are non renewable fossil fuel-based, their extraction and production create greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide into the atmosphere which further contribute to global climate change. These greenhouse gases can cause respiratory diseases such as asthma and whooping coughs and may sometimes lead to death.

Last but not least, the spread of awareness is another reason why plastic bags should be banned. When we ban plastic bags, we keep our environment clean and at the same time send some message globally about the importance of environmental protection. People learn that banning plastic is for a reason and they can take up such important information. They can subsequently begin to understand that plastic bags causes some negative effects on the environment and humans need protection against them.

In conclusion, the reasons why plastic bags should be banned are; plastic bags choke our gutters in our communities, plastic bags are harmful to human health, they contribute to climate change and they also help to spread awareness to people to keep their environment clean. Therefore plastic bags should be banned.

## UGCD-126

Plastics are synthetic materials made from a wide range of organic polymers. Most plastics are made from petroleum and natural gas. Over the years, plastics have replaced the use of leaves and wooden materials in the manufacturing industry and public consumption. This is because Plastics are durable, cheap, and last longer comparing to the other materials. Even though the use of plastics has been of great merits, its outweighing demerits are enough reasons for the use of plastics to be banned.

Plastics are made from non-renewable energy sources that contribute to climate change during its production. This brings a nest of issues such as destruction of habitats, extraction of crude oil, security issues from the volatile countries where oil is produced, and the increase of chloro- fluoro-carbons, which contribute to gases that cause climate change. The manufacturing, processing, and extraction involve many chemicals, which causes an increase in the greenhouse effect and is the leading cause of climate change.

Aside from the fact that plastics are made from non-renewable sources, which makes them non-biodegradable. Plastics do not decay, and even if possible, it takes several centuries for it to decay.

As a result, plastics are usually a significant factor in environmental pollution. Such plastics are littered in our environment, filling our land with dirt. This landfill, as a result, causes infertility of the soil. Plastics also clog water drainage systems causing flood after heavy rainfall. When washed by rainfall into some water bodies, some of the plastics are mistaken as food by fish. When such fishes eat them, there are no bacteria to digest them as such kills marine life. Others get entangled with such plastics and die out of suffocation.

Furthermore, plastics are very toxic to human life. When marine fishes swallow such plastics and are not digested, they remain in them. Humans, in turn, consume such fishes as the natural food web has designed to be so. These plastics are filled with harmful substances that include estrogen-like substances, which is very dangerous as it means that plastics have hormone-mimicking qualities. These disrupt how hormones work but are not limited to estrogen, behave in our bodies, and give a hormonal imbalance that can have a severe effect on our health. Sometimes, plastics being non-degradable, the only way to get rid of them is to burn them up. This activity releases toxic fumes into the environment contributing to air pollution, which has adverse effects on human life.

In conclusion, Even though the use of plastics cannot be banned in the shortest time, it would be in the best to produce bio-degradable plastics in place of the non-degradable one and with time will be ripped out of the system and reintroduce the use of wooden materials or any other efficient materials.

#### UGCD-127

Plastic bags are essential in the daily lives of humans. They facilitate portability of purchased goods. They also serve as a source of income for the farmers that cultivate the raw materials and the factories that produce them into finished goods. Plastic bags all over the world are in high demand owing to durability and affordability. However, they are a great inconvenience to the environment and therefore should be banned.

First and foremost, plastic bags pollute the environment. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable. They are not capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms. They are known to take up to 1000 years to decompose completely. Accumulation of these plastic bags tend to pollute the environment and the ocean. Indiscriminate disposal of plastic bags results in flooding owing to choked drains and blocked waterways. The environment is also littered. The lives of marine creatures are also endangered as these non-degradable wastes are dumped into their habitat.

Secondly, plastic bags produce harmful substances in the air when combusted. According to Verma (2016) toxic gases like dioxins, furans, mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls(PCBs) are released into the atmosphere when plastics are burnt. These toxic substances pose a great threat to the vegetation, human and animal health. Long-term exposure to dioxin for instance can cause cancer in humans. Also, the ozone layer is depleted as a result of the gases emitted from the combustion of plastic bags.

Thirdly, plastic bags contaminate food products. Plastic bags have low resistance to high temperature and this causes toxic dyes in plastic bags to leach into food products. Therefore, hot environments like the tropical regions can be at risk of exposure to these harmful substances.

Plastic bags are also known to cause suffocation. Infants in the absence of an older person play with plastic bags and end up being suffocated. According to <https://www.familyeducation.com> an average of twenty children die each year from suffocation by plastic bags. Animals like birds and turtles also suffocate by plastic bags. This is as a result of the exposure of animals to plastic bags in water bodies and land.

In conclusion, plastic bags cause pollution, release harmful substances when burnt, contaminate food and cause suffocation. In order to protect the health and wellbeing of humanity and the environment, it is necessary that plastic bags should be banned and something more environmentally friendly be substituted like paper bags or reusable grocery bags.

UGCD-128

Plastic bags are major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. It has become very essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe have put a ban on plastic bags. However, the problem has not been solved completely because the implementation of these measures has not been successful. Three reasons why plastic bags should be banned from the country are deterioration of the environment, drainage problems and release of chemicals by it.

Plastic bags deteriorate the environment. Plastic bags poses many threats to our environment. They destroy the environment due to their harmful effect. They create land pollution and destroy the water bodies. Most water bodies are also destroyed by plastic bags. People dispose them on the floor and in water bodies. They are choked and causes flooding when it rains, thereby posing as a threat to human life and property. Compounds that are used in manufacturing pollute the environment by releasing chemicals into the air and water. These compounds are unsafe, they have been used in manufacturing of food packages, medical devices, bottles and much more. The large dosage of these compounds are hazardous to humans. Although the level of exposure of these chemicals varies depending on the age and geography, most humans experience different exposure to many of these chemicals. Many are unknown on how severely humans and animals



are physically affected by these chemicals. Children and women during their reproduction age are at most at risk and more prone to damaging their immune as well as reproductive system.

Plastic bags lead to drainage problem. People after using the bags mostly dispose them in water bodies. This creates a clog in the water bodies, making the water not to move but be stagnant. When it rains, most places with these water bodies are flooded and people lose their lives and property. Urban floods are entirely manmade with poorly maintained drains, plastic bags, shrinking open spaces and climate change contributing to accumulation of water on roads after a heavy downpour, experts say; They said that steps such as rainwater harvesting, ban on use of plastic bags and better use of weather forecasts will go a long way in helping tackle flooding in cities after rains. Citizens also have to behave responsibly and ensure that plastic bags or used food plates are not thrown in the open or in the neighborhood drains. So that when it rains water can move easily and slowly without causing flood in the area.

Plastic bags release chemicals which enter the soil and make it infertile. When plastic bags are thrown on land it makes soil less fertile. Plastic bags do not dissolve, they break into tiny pieces and remain on top of the soil for a very long time contaminating soil waterways and oceans. Plastic bags slowly release toxic chemicals that certain animals use as a resource. When plastic particles break down, they gain new physical and chemical properties, increasing the risk that they will have a toxic effect on organisms. And the larger the number of potentially affected species and ecological functions, the more likely it is that toxic effects will occur. When this occurs, the land is barren and cannot be used for anything profitable. The nutrients in the soil are destroyed. Plastic bags should be banned in the country. It is making life on earth uneasy.

To conclude, these examples have shown that, it is unusual to see plastic bags being used in our contemporary society as they provide threats to our environment such as deterioration of the environment, drainage problems and release of chemicals into our environment. The ban of plastic bags from our country can lead to the reverse state of the problems created by it.

Plastics are typically organic polymers of high molecular mass and often contain other substances. They are usually synthetic and derived mostly from petrochemicals. However, an array of variants are made from renewable materials such as poly lactic acid from corn. Before 1960 plastics bags were introduced, it was comfortably a way of transporting goods to and fro. In the olden days, they were using back of stems clay pots and others for packaging then plastics bags came and took over. The usage of plastic bags has numerous demerits. Plastics causes environment challenges and health problems and this account for why plastics should be banned.

Harmful to marine life and land pollution, the improper disposal of plastics causes water pollution, there are some chemicals from the plastics bag which can disrupt the normal function of hormones in the body. With the marine animals such as clam, octopus, shrimps and other fishes often sometimes use plastic bags as food sources. When the seabird absorb plastic waste, it takes up room in their stomach and causes famine or starvation which may sometime leads to death and illness to the fish. Plastic bags are usually lightweight and as such, they can be carried everywhere by wind when it blows or water. The wind blows these light weighted plastics and trashes a whole area. These litters get caught up in between trees, fences and floats in water bodies (Moore et al. 2005).

Moreover, is not easy to recycle, plastic recycling is the process of recovering scrap or waste plastics and reprocessing the materials into useful products. Not all plastics cannot be recycled, biodegradable plastics also cannot be recycled in the same way as non-degradable but some can be composted. Each resin reacts differently when it is reprocessed into a new item, because different resin melt together at different temperatures. Plastics are set up to take only specific resins types, even resins with the same number cannot be always recycled together. (<https://www.warwickri.gov>). Therefore, recycling of plastics cannot be easily recycled. (WRAP, 2006)

Last but not least, costly to pay for and clean up. As oil prices plummet, a surprising piece of the economy is taking a huge hit. Plastics, after all, are made from petroleum so as the price of oil drops, so does the cost of making new plastic bottles and other materials decreases. The prices use to pay for the cleanup is very high in this modern societies. Since it cannot always be afforded the environment is polluted and causes negative effect to human health.

The use of plastics are sometimes helpful in as much as there are benefits of using plastics it does not guarantee it to be helpful all the time. Plastic usage also comes with certain demerits like harmful to human health, harmful to wild and marine life, pollutes water bodies and the land and are also made from nonrenewable source. This accounts for why the usage of plastics are more disadvantageous hence must be banned. Human's health and the natural environment we live in is very vital to our daily life activities. This is a motivating factor that should encourage as to ban the usage of plastics since it endangers our health. Its vividness shows that plastics should be banned in order to maintain our health the environment as well.

## UGCD-130

A plastic bag is made of a thin, flexible plastic material, especially one with handles supplied by a shop to carry and transport goods such as foods, produce, powders, ice, magazines, chemicals, etc purchased there. It is a common form of packaging. And in recent times is causing more harm than good to humans, animals and the environment. And they are a major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. For this reason it is very important to ban plastic bags before they destroy our environment. Some countries have tried to ban plastics but it has been difficult for them to do so.

First of all, plastic bags deteriorate our environment. Plastic bags are everywhere. Because they are so lightweight, plastic bags get easily picked up by wind and travel long distances by wind and water to pollute the nature and they are the most common litter. Tangled in trees and fences along roads, floating in water, lying on the ground in parks and forests, surrounding garbage bins, washed off on beaches...thus, they are destroying nature due to their harmful effect. Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. The plastic bags entering into the water bodies are a major cause of water pollution. Hence we can conclude that these are deteriorating our environment in every possible way.

Secondly plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life. Plastic bags are often mistaken for food by animals, birds, and marine life. Animals can also easily become entangled in this plastic waste. Some birds get caught in plastic bags, and are unable to fly and feed, so eventually they strangle themselves to death. Research shows that waste plastic bags have been a major reason for untimely animal deaths.

Thirdly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. The production of plastic bags releases toxic chemicals. These are the main cause of serious illness, of which affect kidney health and proper functioning of other organ. The polluted environment is a major reason for various diseases which are spreading easily in human.

Perhaps, it would be difficult to ban plastic bag but we can keep reminding ourselves about how harmful they are, we can also reuse our old plastic bags before throwing them away, we can also use jute, cloth or paper bags and also spread awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags, and these can contribute our bit to make this ban a success.

To conclude, although plastic is becoming a big threat for all of us, people still do not realise its harmful effect on them and the environment, and they find it difficult to stop the use of plastic bags. But we have to stop or ban using plastic bags before it deteriorate the planet.

## UGCD-131

Plastics are non-biodegradable materials that are produced by chemical processes and can be formed into shapes when heated. Since plastics are non-biodegradable, they do not decompose naturally or can take up to approximately 4000 years to begin their degradation

process, hence, it becomes very difficult to dispose off plastics in the environment. Plastic bags, which are one of the major products of plastics have become a common commodity in our society for buying and selling. Despite this advantage, plastic bags have proven to be one of the main causes of environmental pollution and its adverse effects and should be banned.

Plastic bags which are carelessly disposed off are a major cause of water pollution resulting in the destruction of aquatic lives and floods. This problem arises when plastic bags are washed up into water bodies after a downpour. Since plastic bags are non-biodegradable, they remain in water bodies and pollute them serving as a hazard to aquatic lives. Normally, organisms in water bodies who mistakenly consume plastic bags are suffocated to death when the plastic bag clogs their throat and digestive tracts making breathing difficult. In addition, plastic bags which are accumulated in drainage systems prevent the smooth flow of sewages causing them to overflow their boundaries leading to floods.

Also, disposing plastic bags by combustion releases harmful gases into the atmosphere which pollutes it and in the long run depletes the ozone layer. This has been a major cause of global warming on the earth which has had adverse effects such as drought and an increase in pest insect populations deteriorating the yield of crops with respect to the agricultural sector. The gases released as a result of combusting plastic bags also causes certain respiratory diseases such as cancer and lung cancer.

In addition, plastic bags pose as a threat to the agricultural sector when they get stuck in soil, reducing its fertility and the amount of water absorbed by the soil. In some cases, plastic bags in the soil inhibits plants root growth preventing roots from getting the maximum water they can get from the soil. Plastic bags, since impermeable, on the surface of soil disallow water to pass through them into the soil adversely reducing the soil water content.

In conclusion, plastic bags, which are non-biodegradable has caused societal problems such as water, air and land pollution since it is difficult to completely dispose them off. It has also led to the destruction of aquatic lives and its combustion has been a cause of respiratory diseases such as lung cancer, hence, should be banned. Alternatively, in place of plastic bags which poses itself as a societal canker, paper bags which are easier to dispose can be used.

## UGCD-132

Plastic is a general common term for a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic organic materials suitable for the manufacture of industrial product. Thousands of plastic bag factories are producing tons of plastic bag which are very popularly used by the people for shopping purposes because of its ease and cheapness and convenience of use. They are available in huge numbers and varieties across the world. In contrast, there are many disadvantages of using plastic bags.

To begin, plastic bags has a large effect on the agriculture. Many countries have banned plastic bags due to public concern over the serious negative impact on the agriculture. As plastic

bags are not disposed of properly, they degrade the quality of the soil thus causing soil pollution. In addition to this toxics can leak to the soil and groundwater and cause contamination of soil and groundwater which makes it impossible to grow plant. As plastic bag do not decompose with soil they remain in the agricultural land and block as well as retard the progress of growth. Plastic bags have that inherent property that even though very thin, root of crops fail to Pierce through in order to move around the soil for natural nutrients. Thus plastic have caused tremendous harm to the growth of agricultural produces.

Plastic bags causes harm to marine creatures. Marine creatures unknown to them consume plastic particles along with their food. Research shows that waste plastic bags has been a major reason for untimely animal death. Plastic bags start as fossil fuel and end up as deadly waste in the ocean. Fish, sea turtles and marine mammals can be entangled in or ingest debris causing suffocation, starvation and drowning. Porpoises are most common victims of eating of plastic. Because they eat sea nettles and jelly fish the mostly likely to mistake the plastic bag. It is unlikely that they survive the swallowing and continue with normal digestion and thus die slow and thus die a slowly and painful death. Plastic bags negatively impact almost every living organism in the world's ocean.

Also, plastic bags comes with external cost and cost for clean up. Beyond the cost associated with the production and purchasing of plastic bags by retailers. Retailers incorporate the cost "hiddenly" into the prices of other times sold at stores. Additionally someone has to pay for the cost of dealing with plastic bags in the waste streams. This includes collection and regular cleanup to remove plastic bag litter along the roads and gutter. Research conducted by the United Nations Environmental Programme showed that the "real cost" of plastic including adverse environmental impact of its production, use and disposal. Plastic use cost approximately 75 billion dollars a year.

Another effect caused by plastic bags is clogged in sewage systems. Even in urban areas where wildlife is relatively scarce, plastic bags cause significant environmental harm. Runoff water collect and carries discarded plastic bags untimely washes them into storm sewers. Once in these sewers, the bag often clump with other type of debris and ultimately block the flow of water. This prevent the running water from properly draining and mostly causes flood when there is rain. This excess water can damage cars, building and other property and also collect pollutants and spread them far and wide where they cause more additional damage.

In short, the above points mentioned, that is, the effect plastic bag has on the environment in the case of agricultural production, harmful effect to the ocean, the cost and last but not least blocking of sewage systems. It is clear that the disadvantages and effect of plastic bags are many and therefore should be banned.

Plastics is one of the most important things in the modern life of human being. It can be molded into any desired shape. It is cheap as compared to other materials and has more strength. It is easier to work with hence most people are comfortable when using it. Also, places like schools, offices and hospitals use plastics. Although it has advantages, the effect of plastics on the environment is a very serious issue and law must be enforced to ban the use of plastics.

First of all, it has caused clogged sewage system: wrong deposit of plastics ends up in gutters and water bodies. People do so because it is of little value after usage and easy to dispose of and for that matter the tendency to dump used plastics anywhere is very high. Most of the time, water bodies and gutters get choked with plastics that are recklessly disposed, resulting in flooding during heavy down pours and it associated environmental degradation. In June 3, 2015, there was a serious flood in Ghana, precisely Accra which caused loss of lives and property. It all happened because gutters were choked and so when it rained, the drainage systems in the Accra could not hold and control the flow of rain water, leading to loss of lives and properties running into millions of cedis. This goes to emphasize the point that even though plastics are useful, poor management of their disposals after usage can erode the benefit to mankind and society at large.

Secondly, it has also caused wildlife damage: animals swallow plastic bags most at times during feeding. It affect their digestive system because of the chemical content of plastic bags, coupled with the fact that digestive tract of the animal takes a longer to break down food particles. This has the potential to shorten the live span of wildlife and may eventually lead to extinction. Aquatic animals are also affected because, they tend to feed on plastic bags deposited in water bodies like the sea and rivers. This may eventually poison them and lead to the death. Ultimately, Human beings may be affected as well through consumption.

Thirdly, manufacturing of plastic bags in large scale result in greenhouse effect: greenhouse effect is the process by which radiation from the earth atmosphere warms the earth's surface to a particular temperature to support lives. When manufacturing plastic bags, fossil fuels are used. Burning of fossil fuels leads to global warming. Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide and other air pollutants and greenhouse gases collect in the atmosphere and absorb the sunlight and solar radiation. When the gases accumulates in the atmosphere, it causes the sea level to rise and increase in heat waves on the earth. This may lead to an outbreak of diseases that are very detrimental to human lives.

In conclusion, poor disposal management of plastics bags has many harmful effects but chiefly among them are clogged sewage system, wildlife damage and production of harmful greenhouse gases. We should note that, since the above mentioned points affect human lives also, a ban on the use of plastic bags will benefit human beings .

UGCD-134

The urbanization, technical revolution and the ease of every process has led to the usage of plastics in such a way that plastics have become an inevitable component in our day to day life.

Plastic bags have a very common commodity that these are given for free during the purchase of grocery shops or vegetable shops. But the scenario is instead of making our lives easy, these plastics bags are the root cause of most various issues affecting us. These issues are environmental pollution, health hazard and leads to climate changes and global warming.

Firstly, plastics bags have caused a great harm to the environment. Plastics bags are non-biodegradable and so they cannot be degraded by the action of the microbes. They therefore remain in the soil causing the soil to lose its fertility. Plastic bags do not dissolve, they break into tiny pieces and remain up to 1000 years contaminating the soil water ways. Plastics bags also contain chemicals which kill plants and microbes in the soil. These actions greatly pollute the environment.

Secondly, plastics bags contain toxic chemicals which affects our health. These chemicals are leached out of plastics and are found in the blood and tissues of nearly all of us, exposure to them is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments. These chemicals do not only affect humans but also animals as well. Animals in water through feeding swallow small pieces of plastics which prevent food digestion and can lead to a very slow and painful death. As plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to breakdown, once an animal dies and decays after ingesting plastics, the plastic is then freed back into the marine environment to carry out on killing other wildlife.

Last but not least, production of plastics bags cause a change in climate and global warming. When people think about plastics, they really don't tend to think about the beginning of its life cycle really begins with oil and gas development," said Matt Kelso, manager of data and technology at FracTracker Alliance. Oil, gas and coal are the fossil-fuel building blocks of plastics. Natural gas and oil can be extracted from the through fracking. Extraction and transportation of these fossil fuels is a carbon-intensive activity. The emission of these carbon dioxide cause a change in global warming and the climate changes.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that plastic bags have caused a great harm to our lives from multiple point of view by causing hazards to our health, polluting the environment and have caused a change in the climatic change and global warming. Plastics bags should therefore be banned in order to reduce hazard to our health, reduce environmental pollution and global warming.

## UGCD-135

For the past couple of decades, plastic bags have been part of human lives. It is very essential in our daily activities for carrying items and groceries. In this modern era, about 10 million plastic bags are used every minute around the globe. Recently, the use of plastic bags have become harmful to humans and the environment. In most developing countries and rural areas, the management of waste that are generated from using plastic bags are becoming quite challenging. In view of this, it will be best if we ban the use of plastic bags for various reasons.

Firstly, using plastic bags results in environmental pollution. We have to bare in mind that plastic bags are very light in weight and can be carried from places to places by means of the wind and

water when not disposed properly. It may therefore lead to a very widespread of plastic waste all over the environment at different places. This is very harmful and not eco-friendly. Moreover plastic wastes that end up in water bodies deficit a lot of harmful chemicals into the aquatic habitat since these plastics are made from fossil fuels. It therefore causes harm to organisms living in such environment and destroys their habitat. In addition plastic bags pollutes the environment and increase illness.

Furthermore, plastic bags are classified as an example of non-biodegradable material .Non-biodegradable materials are those which cannot be decomposed by natural processes into useful forms as nutrients. They are synthetic materials that cannot be broken down by microorganisms in the soil. Because they do not break down easily, they contribute largely to the pollution of the environment and causes harm to animals. Most animals see these materials as food and it may lead to complications when the animals eat them. Humans on the other hand are affected when they take products from such animals. Nearly 20 years ago, a pelican was found dead with its stomach filled with 17 plastic bags. In order to avoid such misfortunes, it is better to avoid the use of plastic bags to save our environment.

Lastly, the use of plastic bags contribute to waste management problems. About greater percentage of plastic bags that are used are not recycled. These waste add up to the waste that are introduced into the environment every day. Because plastic bags are non-biodegradable, it is not very easy to get rid of its waste. This issue may result to improper disposal of the waste which in turn leads to diseases like cholera and malaria in most African countries. It also leads to drainage problems( clogged sewage ) which may cause flooding. Most waterlogged areas in Ghana are as a result of choked gutters and improper drainage caused by plastic wastes.

In a nutshell, in as much as we benefit from plastic bags in terms of its low cost and availability, we rather have more to lose than gain from this situation. The use of plastic bags are not safe for us and the environment. We should look at the long term effects of these small ,easy to carry bags in our daily lives. We are all aware of its convenience and the fact that it is very cheap. Instead of using plastic bags, reusable shopping bags must be introduced to avoid the unexpected. Perhaps we should rather resist from using plastic bags to our environment and the earth.

UGCD-136

Plastic bags are crude oil products. They are obtained from petroleum and natural gas. The burning of plastic bags release carbon monoxide which adversely affects the ozone layer of the earth. It remains in the environment for hundreds of years and causes air, water and land pollution. It is dangerous for humans, animals as well as plants. Several animals, especially marine creatures die due to plastic pollution each year. Recycling of plastic bags is a very long process and not a viable option. The effects of plastic bags are very high and therefore should be banned.



Plastic bags have toxic chemicals which leach out and causes harms to human health when contact is made. Toxic additives are added to plastic in order to improve its characteristics. These additives can be absorbed by the skin, evaporate into the air or absorbed through the food and drinks we consume. Exposure to them is linked to all cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments. Different human health problems like irritation in the eye, vision failure, breathing difficulties, respiratory problems, liver dysfunction, skin diseases and many others are all caused by the toxicity in plastics.

Also, plastic bags tend to disrupt the environment in a serious way. They pollute our land and water. They get into the soil and slowly release toxic chemicals. They eventually break down into the soil, with the unfortunate result being that animals eat them and often choke and die. Plastic debris injures and kills fish, seabirds and marine mammals. Because persistent organic pollutants in the marine environment attach to the surface of plastic debris, floating plastics in the oceans have been found to accumulate pollutants and transport them through ocean currents. It is estimated that 80% of marine litter comes from land.

Finally, plastic bags are difficult to recycle. Although, plastic bags can be recycled into materials, they require a different collection system and processing equipment than many recycling programs provide. Plastic is much more difficult to recycle than materials like glass, aluminium or paper. Most plastic soon ends up in a landfill or incinerator. This is because, they can not be sorted and goes straight to the system and off to landfill or incineration.

Though plastic bags are very useful in modern civilisation, it serves as a serious threat to the environment. Much is being done to control and correct damage done by plastic bags pollution. They are causing harm to human health, destroying the environment and many other things of concern. Plastic bags affect many people, not only consumers but plastic bags also affect the environment and animals. The ban on plastic bags is a great step towards trash reduction plus thwarting plastic pollution.

UGCD-137

Environmental conservation, human, both wildlife and marine life is a critical aspect that every nation should prioritize. Plastic bags are a great danger to not only humans and animals but to the environment as well since they not biodegradable and contributes to environmental and water pollution among other hazards. The use of plastic bags has been an effective way of transporting items but due to the harmful effects and inappropriate disposals, most countries have banned its use in order to rely on safer options. Plastic bags should be banned due to the following reasons, plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life, plastic bags are harmful to human health and plastic bags do not only pollute water bodies but also the land.

First of all, plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life. Birds, animals and marine life such as sea turtles and fishes often mistake the plastic bags and other plastic materials for food and consume them. What happens once they consume these plastic materials is that their digestive system gets congested leading to the development of health infections and death when there is suffocation. A study found in (2018) proves over one million seabirds are killed by plastic materials in the ocean year. Three hundred thousand dolphins and porpoises die each year as a result of becoming entangled by the plastic.

Furthermore, plastic bags are harmful to human health. There are some chemicals from the plastic bags which can disrupt the normal functioning of hormones in the human body. Most plastic fragments in the oceans like plastic bags have some pollutants such as (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) which are hormone disrupting. Once the marine animals consume these chemicals, they move through their food web then later into humans who consume fishes and other marine animals and eventually, these chemicals affects the health of humans as a result of consuming these affected sea animals and could develop cancer or other serious conditions.

Moreover, plastic bags do not only pollute water bodies but also the land. Plastics are the most common elements that are found in water bodies. Plastic bags are usually light weight and as such, they can travel long distances either by wind or water. The wind blows these plastic bags and trashes a whole area making the litters get caught up in between trees, fences and float in water bodies thus, moving to the world's oceans. Even though much trash and waste dumped into the water bodies is released hundreds of miles away from land, it still washes up on beaches and coastal areas and affects everything in between.

To conclude, plastic bag usage has become an imminent misfortune which needs immediate attention. As Sir Jagadeesh Kumar said, “ Ban every form of plastic before plastic bans every form of life on earth”. Every government and its citizens should make conscious efforts to lessen the usage of plastic bags and the impact of it.

UGCD-138

Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily life. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastic bags possess the lion's share. If we merely take a look around us, we can find umpteen items

which have plastic content in it. Being cheap and easy to carry, it has managed to creep into every household. Despite being aware of the health hazards caused by plastics bags, people continue to use it on a regular basis. The plastic bag is a major villain that poses a threat to the ecology in general and living things in particular. So it is high time that we eradicate this deadly item from our environment, if we are unable to put a conscious effort to recycle it. The plastic bags help an item bought to be well covered and be presentable. Plastic bags have both positive and negative effects .

Plastic does not undergo the natural process of decomposition due to its non-bio degradable properties. Hence, it paves the way to severe environmental pollution, spoils the soil and its fertility. Another issue occurs when the plastic bags interact with soil and diminish the fertility. It has a significant impact on the agricultural produce and yielding. During rain, these flow into water bodies causing water pollution. In spite of this, it wreaks havoc to aquatic species and marine wildlife. Marine species have found consuming plastic pieces by mistake as natural food and finally succumb to death.

Plastic bags also leads to health issues . Studies suggest that over one trillion plastics bags are being used worldwide every year. The issue is regarding its disposal. These wastes accumulate in heaps and become a great menace to the ecosystem. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they emit toxic gases into the atmosphere, which when inhaled causes severe health problems. Plastic bags mounted in heaps raises much public health issues. The dumping yards become the breeding grounds of microorganisms that are sources of different life-threatening diseases. These can also lead to the multiplication of mosquitoes, rats, etc., which are the carriers of many epidemics. Plastic bags have proven to cause a visible depletion of natural resources. It is also found to enter into drainage system resulting in severe blocks.

Make it a practice to use jute bags, cloth bags or paper bags instead of plastic bags. Encourage others to do the same and let them follow your example. Spread awareness on the ill effects of plastic bags and be enthusiastic to go green. Switch over to an eco-friendly lifestyle and embrace these eco-friendly practices, namely reduce, re-use and re-cycle. These and many more , can help keep plastic bags at bay.

#### UGCD-139

Plastic bag is a type of container made of thin, flexible, plastic film or textile. Plastic bags are used for containing and transporting goods such as foods, produce, powders, ice and waste. Plastic bags may be cheap and easy to use, but they are unhealthy for the environment. The more plastic bags people use, the greater the chances of environmental damages.

Plastic bags should be banned to reduce pollution. Plastic is non-bio-degradable as it cannot be recycled, burning plastic diffuses harmful smoke. Once plastic bags are thrown away, they enter the environment in various ways. Some wind up in a landfill where they contribute to the high amount of garbage that is polluting the earth. Other plastic bags get carried to the oceans by wind or because people have littered on the beach harming animals and humans alike. Plastic bags are also made with harmful chemicals that can be damaging to our health especially plastic bottles which are thought to be carcinogenic. Plastic bags are a major cause of environmental pollution. It has become very essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on the plastic bag or levied tax on it. Plastic bags cause land, air as well as water pollution. Researchers claim that plastic bags are a major cause of water pollution. These are also responsible for making our agricultural lands infertile and a cause of a number of other serious problems.

Plastic takes a long time to disintegrate. One of the biggest concerns with plastic bags is that plastic does not disintegrate easily. In fact, it can take 500 years or more for plastic to start to break down, and it will only completely disintegrate within 1,000 years. In addition, plastic bags do not completely break down because they are not biodegradable. What this means is that they will break down into smaller pieces, and these can still contaminate the environment, posing dangers to animals and humans alike. This can translate into devastating consequences because even when animals have consumed plastic and they die from being unable to digest it, their bodies decay but the plastic survives – and can go on to be consumed by other animals, starting the toxic cycle all over again.

Plastic bags should be banned however, the implementation of this rule has not been properly used because they are still being widely used. A plastic bag is also reusable it does not necessarily have to be thrown away after a single use. Several steps are being taken to reduce the serious use of plastic bags. From the foregoing, it is evident that plastic bags be banned because they are harmful to the environment.

#### UGCD-140

Plastic bags, poly bags or pouch are a major cause of environmental pollution. However plastic bags are used for containing and transporting goods such as foods, produce, powders, ice, magazines, chemicals and waste. It is a common form of packaging. Every year, about one to

five trillion plastic bags are used and discarded around the world. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. It has become essential to ban plastic bags before they ruin the planet completely.

Foremost, plastic bags are destroying nature due to their harmful effect. Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. The plastic bags entering into our water bodies are a major cause of water pollution. Animals unknowingly consume plastic particles along with their food. Research shows that as plastic remain in the water bodies, they break down into micro plastics, these micro plastic sometimes attach themselves to other chemicals too and when it gets into the food track of the aquatic organism poses life threatening complications and even death. So, plastics bags have been a major reason for untimely animal deaths.

Furthermore, the production of plastic bags leads to the release of toxic chemicals into the environment. Chemicals such as Carbon dioxide, methane, trichloroethane , acetone , methylene chloride, methyl ethyl ketone, styrene, benzene and many other harmful chemicals are released into the environment. These are the main causes of serious respiratory illness. The polluted environment is a major reason for various diseases which are spreading easily in human beings. The emission of these harmful gases (chemicals) into the atmosphere may lead to the depletion of the ozone layer and Greenhouse effect.

Moreover, waste plastic bags are the main reason for trapping the gutters, drains and sewers, especially during rains. Tangentially when these storms sewers collect discarded plastic bags they get blocked which leads to flooding in roads. This leads to a poor drainage system that can result in flooding and disrupt the lives, buildings and properties of people.

In conclusion, Research on worldwide production of plastics bags and the accompanied environmental pollution have shown that plastic bag wastes have contributed a major environmental issue. The effect of waste plastic bags on marine organisms, humans and the environment at large is of public concern and calls for a need to ban plastic bags. There are many eco-friendly alternatives to plastic bags like reusable jute or cloth bag. There is an urgent need for government agencies and health authorities to enact laws on the ban of the use of plastics bags and also educate the general public on the effects of plastic bags on the environment. By so doing we can save our precious planet.

UG CD-141

Plastic bags are everywhere in our environment. Whenever we go out to purchase our foodstuff, we use plastic bags to serve as containers because of the convenience they provide. In fact, plastic bags have become part of us in our modern lives. However, the use of these plastic bags comes with its own cost to the society, and negatively affects both human and animal health. Three of the costs imposed on the society are that, plastic bags tends to cause respiratory diseases to humans, it also may lead to the destruction of animal lives, and also leads to the pollution of our environment.

First of all, plastic bags may cause respiratory diseases to humans. The burning of these plastic bags ends up releasing toxic gases such as dioxins, furans, mercury, and polychlorinated biphenyls into the atmosphere. These toxic substances get into our bodies in two ways. Humans may either inhale these toxic substances into their bodies or may either take them in as food when they settle on crops and in our waterways. However, this may lead to the contraction of diseases which include lung cancer, asthma and if one is already having these diseases, ones diseases might be aggravated.

Furthermore, plastic bags may lead to the destruction of animal life. Plastic bags are non-biodegradable, so they can stay on our environment for several years. Because of this, plastic bags which have not been burned but have been left on our environment tends to pose a great threat to animal lives. Some animals end up eating these plastics whenever they confuse them as food. However, these plastics do not digest within their bodies, but stays in their bodies. This might cause the death of the animals through choking and suffocation.

In addition, plastic bags may lead to environmental pollution. The continuous use of plastic bags without recycling and reusing them tends to increase the rate of environmental pollution. Plastic bags are used each and every day, and are dumped on our roads, behind our houses and even in our water bodies. The dumping of plastic bags on our lands causes land pollution, and as a result, reduces the fertility of our lands. Also, the dumping of plastic waste in our water bodies tends to pollute our water bodies, and also renders our water bodies unsafe for drinking.

To conclude, the use of plastic bags have become a nuisance to society. Human and animal lives have been lost and are still fading away. The government must introduce some systems such as the imposition of plastic bag levies on individuals who might use them, and if possible, ban their usages in order to reduce or eradicate the damage it has caused.

## UGCD-142

Plastics bags are the major use bags across many countries in the globe, plastic bags are commonly used as grocery bags, they are also use in many sectors including industries, market places, supermarkets and others. It will be difficult to do away with plastic bags because it has been become part of us. When we buy food items other things we used plastic bags because it is easy to carry away. The comfortable use of plastic bags also have a widely effects on the environs and human life. However its use has raised lots of concern that would lead to highlighting the effects why it should be banned. These are; Plastic bags are non-biodegradable, deterioration of the environment and plastic bags are harmful to human life.

First of all non- biodegradable is one of reasons why it should be banned; plastic bags as a substances are non-biodegradable thus plastic bags remains in the environment hundreds of years without decaying, polluting the environment immensely. In addition, plastic bags are not environmental friendly because it does not decompose. The organisms that decomposes material are not able decompose them into simpler harmless substances. These plastics bags breaks up into tiny poisonous microscopic pieces that get deposited in soils and later in water bodies. These

poisonous pieces are around us which get through in our body by means of food chain in our environment. It is clear that plastic get distributed across water bodies and hence in the marine. Animals in the marine such as zooplankton get feed on the plastic pieces while other fishes also feed on the zooplanktons and the pieces and later human being consumes the fishes which in return of poisonous pieces to human life therefore it cannot be decomposed. As a result banning them will treat us on a much healthier journey.

Moreover, another reason is deterioration of the environment; plastic bags mounted in heaps raises much public health issues circulating the environment. The dumping yards become the breeding grounds of microorganisms that are sources of different life-threatening diseases.. Plastic bags have proven to cause a visible depletion of natural resources in our environments. It is also found to enter into drainage system resulting in intense blockage. In addition, the use of plastic bags in the long term, seeks to contribute to the climate change and global warming. As a results it made it clear as a threat to the environments.

Furthermore, harmfulness to human life ; plastic bags crowded in areas like gutters detained amount of water which serve as a breeding ground for microorganisms causing diseases to humans. The process of producing plastics involves in giving out green house gases. Therefore plastic bags have proven to cause the ecological imbalance which threatens the human life.

Due to non-biodegradable nature, deterioration of the environment and harmful effects of on human life, are the major reason why plastic bags should be banned.

#### UGCD-143

A plastic bag is a thin plastic holder made out thin, malleable plastic textile. They are non-degradable and they take long in the soil without decaying. Plastic bags are made from three basic types of polythene ; high density polythene , low density polythene and linear low density polythene. Basically plastic bags are used for packaging of finished goods also to enhance easy transportation. Plastic bags are used for holding and moving goods such as foods, waste , chemicals and others and these are some positive aspect of using plastic bags . Despite the positive effects that polythene has on humans and or environment as a whole , it also has negative implication on the environment also therefore with this I suggest it should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags are non-biodegradable. Plastic bags disposal is one of the biggest problem that countries are facing. When a plastic is said to be non-biodegradable it means that the polymers or compounds are unable to breakdown to environmentally safe conditions over a long period after being processed biologically. Since they do not breakdown or decompose early is causes a large percentage of land pollution and it also chokes drainage system restricting or disturbing the free flow of water in drainages.

In addition, plastic bags enhance the destroying of our physical environment. This is another point to establish the fact that plastics must be banned. Throwing away plastic bags in the soil renders the soil infertile and this is a bad issue, the soil helps us to grow food which is a necessity for human survival therefore when the soil is made infertile there is going to be food shortage. Also when the soil is polluted the nutrients in the soil are depleted therefore plants are unable to tap into the nutrients to help them produce their own food for growth and in return provide animals and humans with food and oxygen. Also the burning of plastic bags releases harmful gases into the atmosphere which when inhaled can cause respiratory diseases and affect the lungs.

Furthermore, plastic bags or plastics interfere with the habitats of animals. Many animals have been forced to move from their original habitat to other places to seek refuge since the bag ends up floating into the sea and homes of mammals, fish and other animals. One animal which is being endangered by plastic bags is the leatherback turtle. They always end up eating plastic bags because they mistake it for jellyfish and they end up choking on it.

In conclusion, the non-biodegradability of plastic bags, the environmental destruction by plastics, and the interference of plastics with the habitats of mammals are enough reasons to support the stand that plastic bags must be banned.

#### UGCD-144

Plastics are one group of polymers that are built from simple units called monomers through a process known as polymerization. They can be molded into many forms of objects such as plastic bags, bottles, baby products and many more. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on the usage of plastic bags or placed a tax on it. However the issue has not been completely solved since the implementation of these measures have not been successful. Here are some problems caused by plastics: deterioration of environment, clogged sewage, global climate change, harmful to animals and marine creatures and causes illness in humans.

First and foremost, plastics are destroying nature due to their negative effects. Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. They are easily blown away by wind and get stuck in trees, refuse dumps and other water bodies as mosquitoes to spread malaria. Hence it is evident that plastics deteriorate the environment.

Secondly, waste plastics such as plastic bottles and bags are the main contributors for clogged sewages. The drains and sewers are often choked by these plastics especially during raining seasons, which often lead to flooding and disruption of normal life of people.

To continue, global climate change and greenhouse effect; plastics are made from substances derived from crude oil and non-renewable fossil fuel based. Through their extraction and production, gases are emitted into the atmosphere which contributes to global warming.

In addition, plastics should be banned because it contributes to the untimely deaths of animals and marine creatures. They often mistake plastic bags for food and consume plastic particles



along with their foods which leads to painful intestinal blockage or death. Others suffocate as a result of being choked by the plastic bag which have been the major reason for the untimely animal deaths.

Finally, plastics should be banned because it poses threat on human health. Most of the plastic bags contain inorganic dyes. These dyes can leach toxins into foodstuffs which can affect kidney health and proper functioning of other organs of an individual.

In conclusion, although the use of plastics is considered as one of the greatest issue humans are facing in their contemporary life, the problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people do not consider the long-term effect of these small, easy to carry bags they use in their everyday life. But now everyone has to completely stop using the plastic bag to save our environment and earth.

#### UGCD-145

Environmental pollution is mostly caused by the use of plastic bags. Plastics are non-biodegradable substances and as such they remain in the environment for hundreds of years thereby polluting it immensely. In an attempt to save the planet from getting ruined completely, it has become very essential to place a ban on the use of plastic bags. Many countries around the globe have banned the use of plastic bags while others have imposed taxes in order to restrict its usage. Three reasons why the government and other stakeholders in our various countries should ban the use of plastic bags include: deterioration of the environment, drainage problems and negative impact on human health.

Waste plastic bags destroy our environment tremendously. Due to its non-biodegradable nature, waste plastic bags end up destroying the environment if not properly disposed. For example, in Ghana figures estimate that only 2 per cent of the plastic waste generated yearly are recycled and the remaining 98 per cent find their place with the waste management companies who send them to landfill sites, water bodies and other open places. Some of these waste materials are also burnt which pollutes the air and the ozone layer as well. This clearly indicates that plastic bags end up deteriorating the environment in every possible way.

Waste plastic bags in our environment is a major reason for choking the drains and sewers, especially during rains. This results in floods and disrupts the normal lives of people. Over 150 lives perished on the night of Wednesday, June 3, 2015 due to a flood that occurred across the capital of Ghana. This was a huge blow to many families and the nation as a whole. In recent

times, waste plastic bags have been the main reason for choking the drains, so it is unlikely that this situation will end if an action is not taken to curb this problem.

Waste plastic bags also have a damaging effect on the health of individuals. It is obvious that plastic bags are more durable than paper bags and also promote food safety. On the other hand, they pose a lot of threats to human lives. The production of plastic bags releases toxic substances into the atmosphere. This is the main cause of birth defects, cancer, asthma, bronchitis and other deadly diseases. This calls for appropriate measures to be implemented in order to sustain the lives of people.

Although the use of plastic bags is becoming a huge threat for all of us, this situation has been underestimated and overlooked by many. This is because people do not focus on the dangers in using plastic bags in their everyday life. Today, people keep using plastic bags due to its convenience. Some countries are better off now after placing a ban on the use of plastic bags. This is a call for governments, firms and individuals all over the globe to play a unified role to forbid the use of plastic bags to promote safety in our environment and earth.

#### UGCD-146

Plastic is a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic compounds. It is formed when natural materials such as cellulose, coal, natural gas and other materials are polymerized. It is malleable and so can be moulded into different solid objects. Some plastic bags such as bottles, polythene bags, food trays and the likes have made it simple and easy to carry our items. However, the use of plastic bags must be banned due to its negative impacts on the environment.

First of all, the use of plastic bags causes wastage of land. Although plastic bags help us to carry and package items, after they have been used, we drop them in dustbins and later on dispose them at a refuse dump together with other wastes. Unlike the other wastes that do not take a lot of time to decompose, plastics take about thousand years on surface of the land not even for them to decay but rather break into pieces, this makes it waste and pollutes the land. By intending to burn them so they do not waste the land, they turn to release harmful chemicals into the atmosphere which can greatly affect the environment as well as the ecosystem.

In addition, plastics are harmful to human and animal lives. Precisely sixty percent of the foods we eat in our daily lives as humans are contained in plastic bags, we also drink water mainly from plastic bottles. However, these plastic bags are harmful to our health and are negatively affecting our lives gradually. We mostly use the plastic bags to store or heat our meals, this leads to the leaching of harmful chemicals in these plastic containers into the food we eat and can cause health problems such as childhood asthma, lung disease, skin disease, irritation, destroying

hormonal balance and many more diseases. Plastic bags also cause harm to animals especially the aquatic lives when these plastics are washed away into water bodies by rain. Approximately one million marine animals including sharks, mammals, turtles, birds and many more are killed every year due to plastic debris in the ocean.

Moreover, the use of plastic bags affects plant life. Although some of the crops we grow and even the fertilizers we apply on them are stored in plastic bags, these plastic bags can negatively affect plant lives. When we dispose the plastics onto the land, it takes a longer period of time on the land and the toxic chemicals in them will be gradually washed away into the soil by rainfall after these plastics have been scorched by the sun, these make the soil less fertile for plant use. Also the burning of plastics releases harmful chemicals into the atmosphere which settles on the leaves of plants making it difficult for plants to manufacture their own food (photosynthesis), thus affecting plant lives which goes a long way to affect the ecosystem as well.

In summary, the use of plastic materials has become Part and parcel of human life and so therefore will not be easy for humans to stop using plastic bags. Hence there should be the production of plastic bags that are biodegradable (easy to decompose) in order to stop using the harmful plastics that have negatively affect our land, animal and human lives as well as plant lives

#### UGCD-147

Plastic bags, commonly known as poly bags are packaging materials, which are used for containing and transporting goods such as foods, produce and packaging domestic waste. Research has shown that plastic bags are the most common forms of packaging and they play a vital role in our daily lives. In most times, traders and grocery shops make use of these plastic bags. Every year, about 1 to 5 trillion plastic bags are used and discarded around the world. In as much as these bags have useful purposes, they tend to destroy the environment in a more serious way since they never fully breakdown causing everlasting pollution .In this way ,their disadvantages of plastic bags supersedes their advantages for this reason plastic bags should be banned.

Firstly, plastic bags are major pollutants of the environment. As said already ,plastic bags are never fully broken down causing them everlasting pollution. The improper disposal of these bags are the major reasons why they are major pollutants of the environment .As a result of these improper disposal, run off water collects and carries them away into drainage system .This situation then causes the clog gage of sewage system.These plastic bags forms clumps and ultimately blocks the flow of water. Hence it creates inconveniences for those living and working

in the area .Such instances are when roads are often flood when drainage system before blocked which causes commuters to stay at home.

To continue, plastic bags must be banned because it has led to the death of animals and the destruction of their habitats. Animals suffer harm at the hands of plastic bags in a number of ways. Many animals including both terrestrial and aquatic varieties eat plastic bags and suffer from serious health problems once they do. For example, a significant number of cows die each year after eating plastic bags that end up in their grazing grounds. Animals can also be poisoned by the chemicals used to create the bags or even from the chemicals that the plastics have absorbed while making its way to the grazing land of these animals.in the case of aquatic animals, the rains wash these plastic bags into the seas, rivers and lakes. The plastic bags breakdown into smaller pieces, eventually becoming micro plastics.as a result, aquatic animals consume them and get choked which leads to death. This problem affects the fishing industry in a long run because most of the fishes caught happen to be dead.

Lastly, another reason why plastic bags be banned is as a result of their improper disposal and the inability for countries to recycle them. The disposal and recycling of these plastic bags haven't been given any attention and that is having a huge effect. Most people don't dispose their plastic bags properly. I suggest that plastic bags should be banned if proper disposal is not done.

To conclude, I will suggest that paper and cotton bags be used.

UGCD-148

Plastics bags were introduced as substitutes to paper bags. They are made from non-renewable resources and contain a lot of chemicals, most of which are harmful to human, animals and the environment in general. The fact that it has been used for over forty years worldwide makes it hard to believe that it is harmful in any way, considering it is more convenient than any other carrier available. Below are some reasons why plastics should be banned.

One reason why plastics should be banned is they are harmful to human health. Almost all the plastics bags consumers encounter in daily life contains potential toxic chemicals such as dioxins, phthalates, vinyl chloride , lead and others that leach into the food and water it's been used to contain, which is how these chemicals get into our body. They can cause diseases such as cancer, birth defects, impaired immunity and other ailments. Plastics bags when burned

also diffuse harmful smoke that can cause lung cancer and other respiratory diseases and skin diseases such as dermatitis.

A second reason why plastics should be banned is plastic bags take up to about thousand years to decompose. About one third of all plastics waste ends up in soils and in waterbodies. When they stay there for a long time, they breakdown into microplastics and their toxic chemicals are leached into the soil sediments and waterbodies. Marine animals in these waterbodies mistake the microplastics to be food, jelly fish to be specific and they choke on them and die, leading to extinction. The toxic nutrients that are leached into waterbodies also make them harmful for domestic use such as drinking, bathing and cooking. Plastics bags that are thrown about also pollute the land since they take a long time to decompose, they are sometime washed off by rain or blown by wind into gutters and they choke them, a major cause of flooding. The plastics that are buried in the soil also leach their toxic chemicals in them and the seep into plants and underground water, killing microorganisms in the soil in the process.

A third reason why plastics should be banned is they are made from non-renewable resources. They are made from natural oils and natural gases, both of which are non-renewable, meaning that once they are used, the supply is finished up. The oils can be used to make other important substances such as gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles and natural gases can be used for cooking and heating homes in the colder regions of the world. We are wasting so much on these plastic bags because it will take millions of years for the earth to create more.

In conclusion, the points elaborated above are just a few of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned. It all circles back to us humans as the main victims. Measures should therefore be made to find alternatives, otherwise in a few years to come the world will be covered with plastics.

UGCD-149

Plastic bags as described by Wikipedia are a type of container made of thin, flexible, plastic film, nonwoven fabric or plastic textile. Plastic bags are used across the world for packaging goods. They also make finished products portable for easy transportation to other parts of the world. Plastic bags have been of several importance to human beings. However, plastic bags should be

banned because, they pollute the environment, they destroy the drainage system of cities and they also pose danger to the health of living organisms.

Firstly, plastic bags pollute the environment. Most plastics are manufactured to be used only once and hence cannot be reused. People across the world do not usually recycle these used plastic bags, but they are rather disposed improperly. The improper disposal of these bags will lead to a gradual pollution of the environment around us. The massive pollution caused by these plastics will lead to the spread of disease such as malaria and cholera which can take away the lives of innocent people. Plastic bags should therefore be banned in order to control the pollution going on in our environments.

Secondly, plastic bags destroy the drainage system of cities. Most plastic bags take a very long time to decompose when they are in water. When more of these plastic bags are dumped into water bodies they accumulate gradually and hence block the constant flow of the water. The blocking of water bodies by plastic waste has brought about flooding in many parts of the world leading to the loss of precious lives and properties. The destruction of drainage systems by plastic bags would also lead to erosion of farmlands leading to the reduction in agricultural harvest. This problem has affected humanity greatly in the past years hence the need to ban plastic bags.

Thirdly, plastic bags pose danger to the health of living organisms. Most living organisms face different forms of danger from the use of plastic bags. When animals mistakenly swallow plastic bags it affects their intestines which will then lead to a slow but painful death of these innocent creatures. Researchers from the University of Queensland recently determined that almost about 52 percent of the world's sea turtles have eaten plastic debris which is unhealthy for them. They also have some chemicals that can be transferred into the food of people. It is therefore very important to ban plastic bags in order to save living organisms.

To conclude, the use of plastic bags should be banned. Plastic bags are very useful to man but they have also caused several harms to mankind. Plastic bags have become pollutants in our cities, they have blocked several drainage patterns and they also cause danger to the health of living organisms. They can be banned and replaced with affordable paper packages. Governments should therefore enforce laws to ban the use of plastic bags in order to protect human beings from future harm.

#### UGCD-150

There are many types of containers that help people to contain and transport goods such as foods and waste. But the most common type of a container used is a plastic bag. Plastic bags are thin plastic textile which are used a lot by most countries in the world. Although plastic bags have made packaging easier in the world, it should be banned since it has caused more harm than good. Plastic bags should be banned because it deteriorates the environment, clogs the sewage systems and poses a threat to animal life.

The first reason plastic bags should be banned is its deterioration to the environment. When disposed of, plastic bags left on the land release toxic chemicals into the soil. These toxic chemicals cause the infertility of the soil. As a result, crops are not able to grow to cover the

topsoil to prevent erosion. When excessive soil erosion occurs, the land becomes bare leading to desertification. Also, when crops are not able to grow, humans are not able to feed themselves causing starvation. Even when crops grow, they are contaminated by the toxic chemicals released by these plastic bags causing poisoning. Anything that poses a threat to human life and the earth should be banned.

The second reason why plastic bags should be banned is it clogs the sewage system. Since plastic bags are not easily degradable it last for years. For this reason, plastic bags not properly disposed of piles up sewage systems clogging water passages. This creates filth which leads to diseases like cholera and malaria. As a result, death toll of humans increases reducing productivity which decreases economic growth. Also, clogged sewage systems lead to flooding. Buildings and streets get really flooded destroying properties and leaving people homeless. The sewage systems need to be kept clean, and this can be done by banning plastic bags.

The final reason plastic bags should be banned is it poses a threat to animal life. Many animals, including both terrestrial and aquatic creatures, eat plastic bags disposed on land and in water. Sometimes, these plastic bags tend to choke the animals to death. Also, since plastic bags cannot be easily digested by the digestive systems, it gets piled up in the stomach of animals. Due to this, animals are always full, leading to starvation which causes death.

The use of plastic bags must be prohibited since it deteriorates the environment, clogs sewage systems, and poses a threat to animal lives. Alternative measures must be used such as recyclable materials which will not be disposed of after use. This will create a safe environment for everyone in the world.

## UGCD-151

It is estimated that every year 500 billion plastic bags are used Worldwide. This shows that plastic bags are very important in our everyday life. Despite their usefulness, these non-bio degradable materials which take 20-1000 years to breakdown according to Ocean crusaders.org have got numerous drawbacks on humanity and the environment. Due to these adverse effects there is the need to ban the use of plastic bags.

To begin , plastic bags cause environmental pollution. Over the years, environmental pollution has been one of the major problems faced by the world, and one contributor to the phenomena has been the use of plastic bags. Due to the non-bio degradable nature of plastic bags, the soil for instance, takes 500years to decompose these materials which release harmful chemicals into the soil making it unsuitable for plant growth. Again, because of littering and lack of recycling, plastic bags end up making the environment filthy.

In addition, they cause health problems. Not only do plastic bags cause destruction to the environment many health issues such as cancer nowadays is as a result of plastic bags usage. During the production of these bags a lot of harmful gases and chemicals such as butane are released into the atmosphere as a result of refining crude oil of which the substance use for these bags are derived from. Also, in the production of plastic bags many chemical additives such as

cadmium and mercury which are added to give these products their desirable performance properties lead to direct toxicity and endocrine disruption which leads to cancers, immune system suppression, birth defects and developmental problems in children.

Furthermore, plastic bags cause harm to animals. As a result of water and land pollution caused by plastic bags, many marine creatures and wildlife are endangered. As a result of plastic bags debris swallowed by these innocent animals who mistakenly take them as food often suffer from intestinal obstructions which lead them to a long, slow and painful death. According to researchers from University of Queensland approximately 52% of the world's sea turtles have eaten plastic debris.

Lastly, another reason plastic bags should be banned is that they contribute to climatic change. In the past decades, climatic change has become one of the most pressing issues on the international agenda and one major factor for this is burning of fossil fuels of which crude oil and natural gas which plastic bags are extracted from are examples. In refining crude oil and processing natural gas to get plastic bags, a lot of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide which contribute to this are emitted.

In summary, although the use of plastic bags have become part of our everyday life but considering their effects such as polluting the environment, causing many health problems in human, causing harm to marine and wildlife, and also contributing to climatic change it is advisable to ban the use of these plastic bags and adapt to the use of paper bags.

## UGCD-152

Plastics are synthetic materials that are made from cellulose, coal, natural salts, and crude oil. A plastic bag is a container that is used to carry goods around. Although plastic bags have some advantages such as it is light in weight making it easy to carry around, it is also very cheap and some of them can be used repeatedly. But there are two sides to every argument and when the advantages are put against the disadvantages there is no good reason that plastic bags should not be banned.

To begin, plastic bags serve as a threat to animals. Some birds and sea turtles are reported to die from plastic bag suffocation every year. This is due to the presence of plastic bags in their environment. This is because of the suffocation they encounter while trying to eat them. The sea turtle for instance swallows the plastic bags because they look like jelly fish. Also it



affects aquatic life when they are washed into water bodies. They cover the surface of water bodies making sunlight and oxygen inaccessible to the plants and fishes in the water body.

Also, plastic bags cause environmental pollution. This is because of their durability. Although their durability can be an advantage but when they are disposed they take 1000 years to decompose. This makes them stay longer in the environment. Although plastic bags are used more than once if its contents are not heavy. But when heavy items are placed in them, the handles tend to break. Therefore most people double the bags which leads to more bags and therefore more trash.

To continue, plastic bags are also very difficult to recycle. A reason why plastic bags have become a burden on the environment is the way we deal with them when they can no longer be used. Plastic bags are difficult to sort out by the machines at the recycling plants. They get stuck and jam the machines making it very difficult to recycle. This is why some grocery stores provide bins to collect them to properly recycle but most shoppers do not return them and rather dispose them improperly.

In conclusion the use of plastic bags have been seen to have more disadvantages and do more damage than good. This is due to the fact that they damage the environment and lead to the death of animals. As a result it is necessary that they should be banned due to these reasons and many more plastic bags should be banned.

## UGCD-153

Plastic bags are materials used in every part of the world making it important in our daily lives. They contain chemicals which poses threats on the lives of humans but at the same time they are used by shopkeepers in selling. It implies that plastic bags have their own positive and negative impacts. This work thematically examines the purposes or reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags are used in packaging foodstuffs, medicine and other consumable products from shops. Whenever a product is purchased from a shop it is packaged in a plastic bag, because it cannot be placed in the hands of the buyer. It is only fair to package purchased products in plastic bags.

Looking at it this way, it is difficult to clean up the environment after improper disposal of the plastic wastes. Because of the wide use of plastic bags they are mostly dumped on streets and other improper places. Plastics have the habit of not decomposing meaning they remain on land and the only way to get rid of them is by cleaning them up. Since filth cannot remain in the environment it is deemed necessary to perform clean up exercise and refuse dump as well. People need to come together to do the cleaning which is difficult to agree on. Roaming on the streets collecting plastic bags is not an easy task of which people demand for money. But the question is, where is the money going to come from? That is the reason why plastic bag waste remain on the streets making them filthy.

Also, plastic bags pollute the environment; in other words our land and water. Plastic bags contain some chemicals that make them not to decompose, so they stay on the land for a very long period of time. Mind you, those chemicals bring about negative impacts on land. The fertility of the land is destroyed because of the chemicals from the plastic bags. These plastic bags are mostly blown away into water bodies which makes the water unsafe for human consumption. Not forgetting that creatures like fish, crab and others live in water bodies hence, they die due to the chemicals from the plastic bags. The water therefore becomes less safe for human consumption.

Furthermore, plastic bags should be banned due to its negative impacts on the lives of humans. Its impacts are of great threats to the environment and the country at large, no one would like to live a life of threats.

I am going to conclude by saying plastic bags have their own advantages they have introduced, but not withstanding the fact that lives are at stake. Plastic bags polluting the environment which causes harm to the human health. In my opinion plastic bags should be banned despite its advantages but not overlooking its outweighing disadvantages.

UGCD-154

Plastic bags play a massive role when it comes to packaging. Among its convenient, portable and easy to use features, they present harmful and in certain cases fatal effects in the environment and also on living organisms. These adverse effects have proven very difficult to curb and hence plastics should be banned.

Firstly, plastic bags are one of the world's common types of litter on land that creates disturbing effects such as flooding and soil depletion. Most of the plastic bags pile up in huge quantities which tend to block local drainage systems, especially in developing countries. For example, the floods in Bangladesh over 20 years ago was said to be partly linked to blockages in drainage systems from plastic bags. Also the severe floods in both Mumbai and Chennai in 2005 and 2017 respectively claimed over 500 people's life. Again plastic bag litters on land make the soil less fertile. When plastic bags are burned, they release toxic chemicals that are deposited in soil and surfaces of water and on plants; and these chemicals tend to deplete the soil's fertility. Understandably, with lives and land at stake; proves a major reason why plastic bags are harmful.

Again, some sea wild animals are at risk of extinction because of plastics bags. These plastic bags are found to be deposited by sea sailors across the oceans. Huge pile up of plastics bags are said to be found in the North Pacific Ocean and has been nicknamed the "Great Pacific Garbage". Some of the marine animals mistaken floating plastic bags to be jellyfishes and consume them. Also thousands of albatross birds have died because they had ingested large amount of plastic bags. Another species at risk of extinction are sea turtles; of whom studies have proven that their mass disappearance from earth are as a result of them being killed by

plastic bags after they feed on them. Plastic bags pose a major threat to wildlife on earth and needs to be stopped.

Finally, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Most African countries tend to serve food in plastic bags for human consumption. Plastic bags in their making are mixed with certain chemical toxics and with a slight exposure to heat can be released when it comes into contact with humans. Studies have shown that some of the toxics interferes with cell division and can lead to certain medical conditions like mental retardation and birth defects, including Down syndrome. Also some of these toxics when ingested cause abnormal high levels of liver cells which usually lead to cancer formation.

In conclusion, plastic bags exposure is extremely fatal and needs to be corrected to preserve the human race. Concluding, plastic bags ever introduced, has served detrimental other than its' propitious intent. Living organisms are perishing at the mercy of plastic bags, fertile lands are turning into deserts and plants are also dying; leaving the ozone system at risk. The world is surely a safe and better place without plastic bags.

#### UGCD-155

Plastic bags are flexible textile containers used for containing and transporting food waste and consumer goods. Plastic bags, though useful in many ways, have proved to be extremely harmful to the environment due to the fact that they do not decompose easily, making their disposal a huge challenge. Most countries have imposed a ban on the use of plastic bags. The ban does not necessarily mean its use should cease, but rather control its individual use because people are irresponsible when it comes to its disposal thus a major cause of environmental pollution. Some harmful effects of plastic bags include; endangerment of wildlife and marine life, clogged sewage and air pollution.

Endangerment of wildlife and marine life, plastic bags are often mistaken for eatables by birds, animals and marine creatures. Floating plastic bags can be mistaken to be jellyfish by marine animals who consume them. The plastic consumed by these species, will then block their digestive tracts, often leading to infections. Large land animals like cows and camels die from ingesting plastic bags. The bags coat their stomachs and they die of starvation because food can no longer be absorbed and digested.

Also, clogged sewage, causes drainage problems as a result of improper disposal of these plastic bags . Huge quantities of these plastics are well known to block local drainage systems, especially in developing countries. Heavy downpour of rain directs plastic bags into sewage lines thereby clogging it. Clogged sewage lines prevents the continuous flow of rain water, which in turn leads to flood-like situations mainly in urban communities. Not only do floods destroy homes, delay traffic and cause mudslides, but they also create breeding grounds for water borne diseases, malaria and dengue fever.

In addition, plastic bags causes air pollution. Most plastics are made from fossil fuels like oil and natural gas, which release toxic emissions when extracted from our earth. Burning plastics,

releases dangerous substances such as heavy metals and toxic chemicals into the air. These chemicals are linked to the development of asthma, heart diseases and cancer. Because the waste cannot be recycled or disposed of properly, it is often incinerated, which causes air pollution, contributes to climate changes and creates more demand for waste.

To conclude, plastic bags which are non biodegradable causing all kinds of pollution, health issues, drainage problem leading to flood, endangerment of wildlife and marine life must be banned. We need to create a viable environment for the upcoming generation and banning plastic bags is one sure way forward.

## UGCD-156

Plastic bags are a major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. It has become important to ban plastic bags before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on the plastic bag or Levi tax on it however, the problem hasn't been solved completely because the implementation of these measures hasn't been successful. Three of these reasons are deterioration of environment, clogged sewage system and harm to animals and marine creatures.

One important reason is deterioration of the environment. Plastic bags are destroying nature due to their harmful effect. Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. The plastic bags entering into the water bodies are a major cause of water pollution. Hence we can conclude that these are deteriorating our environment in every possible way. Chemicals released by waste plastic bags enter the soil and make it infertile. Scientist have long known that views of natural landscapes provide a wealth of benefits. Among other things, natural habitats and greenspaces help to reduce recovery time and improve outcomes of hospital patient, they help to improve focus and concentration among children, they help to reduce crime and they help to increase property values. The production of plastic bags releases toxic chemicals and these are the main cause of serious illness. The polluted environment is a major reason for various diseases spreading these days.

A second important factor is clogged sewage system which waste plastic bag are the main reason for trapping the drains and sewers. During rains this can result in a flood-like situation and disrupt the normal life of people. Runoff water collects and carries discarded plastic bags and washes them into storm sewers which form clumps with other debris

and eventually block the flow of water. For example, roads often flood when storm sewers become blocked, which forces them to be closed until the water drains.

Finally, harm to animals and marine creatures makes it important for plastic bags to be banned. Many animals including terrestrial and aquatic eat plastic bags and suffer from serious health problems. Research shows that waste plastic bags have been a major reason for untimely animal deaths. While livestock and domestic animals are certainly at risk from plastic bags, as they often mistake them for jellyfish, a popular food for many sea turtle.

In conclusion, even though plastic is becoming a big threat for all of us, this problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. People do not look at the long term effect of these plastic bags they use every day but rather use it to their convenience. But now everyone has to completely stop using the plastic bag to save our environment and earth.

UGCD-157

Per records available from the city authority that is Accra Metropolitan Assembly about 55% of waste generated by the country are plastics. More so not all the waste generated in the country is collected. From statistics only 45% of waste generated is collected. Hence where does about 501,875 tons of plastic that is produced annually go?. This essay will discuss issues concerning plastic bags and the need for it to be banned.

Essentially, plastic bags are from non renewable sources which can result in climate change. Plastic bags are generated or produced from polythene. Polythene is a tough , flexible synthetic resin. Therefore it is a substance derived or gotten from crude oil refining and natural gas processing. These non renewable resources from extraction to production, emit greenhouse gases. These gases are the main contribution to global warming. They contribute to global climate change. The release of these harmful gases in the air go a long way to deplete the ozone layer.

Also, the use of plastic bags affect aquatic lives. Litter, rubbish or waste dropped on the street eventually gets into the ocean and other water bodies. After rainfall, rainwater and wind carries plastic waste into lakes, streams and rivers and also also through drains. These outlets are a means by which plastic bags get into the ocean. Most sea animals of then confuse plastic bags for food and ingest them. Once plastic is ingested, it can never digest so it stays in the system of the animal. This increases the chance of disease and reproduction and with the long run survival.

A very important reason as to why plastics should be banned is due to its inability to decompose thereby affecting the soil and plants. Plastics are unable to go through that process because very few organisms derive energy from the oil that is used in the manufacturing of

polythene. Plastic bags when left overtime on the ground can release harmful chemicals into the soil which can seep into groundwater. This makes the soil less fertile. When these bags are burned, they release destructive chemicals into the soil and on plants.

Finally, plastic bags should be banned because there are better alternatives to serve its purpose. Instead of the use of these bags, bags such as jute bags, canvas or calico bags, reusable paper bags and polypropylene green bags can be used. Moreover these alternatives are serving the same and basic purpose of plastic bags and are less harmful and more economical.

The use of plastic bags is doing more harm than good. Plastics is a non biodegradable substance which goes a long to cause destruction to the environment and lives at large. Thereby it is very important that these harmful substances be banned for the tranquillity and endurance of the earth.

#### UGCD-158

Plastic bags have positively affect the world since they have made it easier to carry and convey many items from one place to another. Since its numerous negative effects cannot be overlooked, it is has become prudent that plastic bags should be banned.

Firstly, plastic bags have enhanced climate change. These plastic bags are manufactured from non-renewable sources which facilitate changes in climate. These changes in climate contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer which also perpetrates global warming. Many plastic bags are produced using polypropylene which is a material made of petroleum and natural gas. These materials are non-renewable fossil fuel-based. Through their manufacturing and extraction, greenhouse gases are produced which further enhance global changes in climate (global warming). This poses a threat to human health and safety. This makes it obvious that plastic bags ought to be banned.

Secondly, plastic bags have contributed to environmental degradation. This negative effect of plastic bags is a global challenge. Plastic bags break into smaller pieces by humans and animals activities which are eventually transferred into water bodies such as oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, lagoons etc through natural occurrences such as rainfall and wind. Moreover, plastic bags do not only contribute to the degrading of water bodies but also land. Plastic bags are normally lightweight and can travel long distances either by wind or water. The wind blows these plastic bags and they may be stucked in between trees, rocks, fences and float in drainage systems thus moving into the ocean. This makes our water bodies unattractive and unsafe for domestic use.

Thirdly, plastic bags have become a threat to human health and animal lives. In the marine realms, animals such as sea turtle and fishes often mistakenly consume these plastic bags and other plastic materials as food. Once they feed on these materials, their system gets poisoned leading to health problems and death as well. On the other hand, the animals may also become stucked inside plastic bags which may hinder consistent movement. Also some chemicals are found in the plastic bags which distruct the normal functioning of hormones in the body since

some humans eat from these plastic bags. However, over 80% of plastic materials in the water bodies like plastic bags have some pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which endanger hormones. Once the marine lives feed on these chemicals, they pass through the food web and later end up in humans who consume these animals. These humans may develop cancers, other serious health problems or they may die.

Fourthly, plastic bags are not easily recycled. This is also one major global challenge when it comes to dealing with plastic bags. The recycling of plastic bags has become an earnest challenge in the system. Recycling facilities do not have the ability to recycle plastic bags and thus do not tolerate them. In Ghana, current statistics reveal that the state generates about 1million tons of plastic waste yearly. The most disgusting part is that only 2-5% plastic wastes are recycled out of this. With this, the rest are abandoned on land, sea, landfill or burnt. Even this approves the ban of plastic bags from the system.

Finally, plastic bags are expensive and difficult to be removed from the environment. It is extremely difficult when it comes to liberating the environment from plastic bags (waste). Plastic bags are hard to remove or clean from the environment since the money to be used in such massive exercise is huge. This makes its removal from the environment very expensive. Even if the required machines are provided for such exercise, some traces of plastic bags may still be seen in the environment. For instance, the Ghana Plastic Manufacturers Association (GPMA) indicates that the 10% environmental exercise tax which was revealed on plastic waste over the years has attracted a sum total of 12 million cedis. This shows clearly that plastic bags must be seized in the system.

In conclusion, the negative effects of plastic bags on the world is more than it's positive effects. With this, there is no guarantee to reject but accept the fact that plastic bags should be banned.

## UGCD-159

The method for creating plastic bags was developed by Sten Gustaf Thulin in the early 1960s (Poly, 2015). Since then, plastic bags also known as poly bags, have become a convenient container for storing, packaging and transporting goods ranging from food, ice, clothes, chemicals to even garbage. Plastic bags should not be banned on the basis that no suitable alternative without adverse effects exist and that poly bags can be recycled and reused; however, to reduce the harmful effect of plastic bags on human and animal life and the occurrence of floods in the suburbs and the nation at large, plastic bags should be banned.

In view of the facts that paper bags do not prove the next best available alternative for plastic bags; plastic bags can be reused and recycled and that plastic bags consume less energy than paper bags during production, it can be argued that plastic bags should not be prohibited. This follows that plastic bags are more convenient, recycled plastic bags serve future purposes and that energy is conserved during plastic bag production.

Nevertheless, banning plastic bags will reduce the harmful effect of plastic bags on human and animal life. Cooked meals are usually packaged hot or warm in plastic bags for the convenience of consumers. The heat from the food causes toxins from the poly bag to be released into the food. Diseases such as cancer, ulcer and asthma turn out to be the effects of consuming such contaminated food. These same plastic bags if improperly disposed end up in nearby water bodies. Ingestion of plastic particles by fishes and other marine creatures can harm or kill them as the pieces of plastic materials tend to block the gut or choke these creatures at worse. Outlawing plastic bags will result in the patronage of banana and other leaves for packaging food instead of plastic bags. The medicinal components of the leaves will improve rather than deteriorate human health. As the leaves are biodegradable unlike plastic bags, they pose no threat to animals too rendering the environment safe for life.

Additionally, outlawing plastic bags will reduce the occurrence of floods. Owing to the fact that improperly disposed plastic bags are carried by the wind or birds into drains and sewers, drains and gutters get clogged and choked by the plastic bags causing floods during heavy rains in particular. The numerous flood cases around the Mallam market for instance will decline once plastic bags that block drains are prohibited and as a result life and property will be protected.

In conclusion, there remains no doubt that although plastic bags are of essential value to the human population, plastic bags should be outlawed to reduce the harmful effect of plastic bags on animals and humans and to decrease the frequency of floods. Creating awareness about the adverse effects of plastic bags while avoiding single-use of plastic bags will support the ban on plastic bags to ultimately protect the environment.

#### UGCD-160

In today's contemporary world, plastic bags play a very crucial role in our daily lives. A plastic bag, also known as poly bag is a type of container normally used at homes, shops and market places for packaging and carrying of goods. It is obtained from crude oil. They are made up of thin, flexible and plastic film. Plastic bags mostly serve as one of the most suitable forms of packaging. Hence, they are quite useful in buying and selling. Plastic bags are very affordable and make packaging of goods easy. These plastic bags can also be reused as dustbins. They are water proof and very durable. Although plastic bags are essential in our daily living, they still pose a threat to living things in particular and the environment as a whole and therefore should be banned. The reasons why plastic waste should be banned are due to the following reasons: they are harmful to aquatic and terrestrial animals, plastic bags clog sewage system, plastic bags contain toxic chemicals and last but not the least plastic bags pollute the land and water bodies.

To start, plastic bags should be banned due to the fact that the disposal of plastic bags causes harm to terrestrial and aquatic animals. Improper disposal of plastic bags on land and in water bodies leads to the poisoning of terrestrial and aquatic animals. As a result, these animals take it in, suffocate and suffer intestinal obstructions which eventually leads to the death of aquatic life and wild life.



Furthermore, another reason why plastic bag should be banned is that, dumped plastic bags leads to clogged sewage systems. This results in the runoff water carrying and collecting discarded plastic bags. These plastic bags with the other debris forms dump and this block and prevent the easy flow of water and it may affect people in such vicinity. The ban on plastic bags will prevent all these menace.

Moreover, plastic bags should be banned because it contains toxic chemicals which is quite harmful to the health of individuals. These plastic bags contains harmful chemicals such as cadmium, lead, vinyl chloride and dioxins which leech out of the plastic bag and is dangerous to the consumer's health. It can in turn cause a lot of cancerous diseases and other health challenges to the individual.

Last but not least, plastic bags should be banned because the plastic bags pollute the environment. Improper disposal of plastic bag waste can cause environmental pollution due to its non-biodegradable nature. The plastic bags take about a thousand years to decompose. Hence, this leads to an increase in the piling of plastic waste in the environment. In addition, when plastic bags are burnt they emit poisonous fumes which cause air pollution.

In a nutshell, plastic bags are very useful in our daily lives. They play a vital role in buying and selling of goods, packaging and carrying of goods. However, there are also adverse effects associated with the use of plastic bags and as such they should be banned. Other options such as paper bags can be used in place of plastic bags in order to put end to the menace caused by the use of plastic bags.

## UGCD-161

Before present modern times, portability of items was not as modernized as now. Dry leaves and other natural objects served as means of carrying items from place to place. As the human brain grew larger, new ways of doing things emerged. Including these new inventions was the production of plastic. Not only is plastic used for making chairs , traffic cones and others but also plastic bags. Gradually, through experiments, it has been discovered that with the usefulness of plastic bags also comes disturbing effects specifically on the environment and also on human beings. These negative effects have outweighed the positive use of plastic bags and therefore plastic bags must be banned.

One of the most significant negative effects of the usage of plastic bags is its threat on the soil. When plastic bags are disposed of and mixed with the soil they tend to release harmful chemicals which destroy certain soil nutrients needed for plant growth. These chemicals not only destroy soil nutrients but also kill soil living organisms when consumed by them. The presence of soil living organisms plays a great role in improving soil structure. Their movement through the soil paves way for good soil aeration. Elimination of soil organisms through these chemicals minimizes how fertile soil is and therefore reduces how resourceful soil could be hence usage of plastic bags must be prohibited.

Water bodies are also greatly polluted by the disposal of plastic bags into them. Water dwelling animals may mistaken plastic bags for food and consume them this may lead them to choke on the plastic bags and die. Plastic bags have led to mass destruction and effect on aquatic life. Also pollution of water bodies has made it unsafe for drinking and other domestic uses. Since water is very essential to human life, it cannot be risked therefore an outlawing the use of plastic bags would be very necessary.

In Ghana, the usage of plastic bags in packaging food is very common by food vendors. For most food joints, hot food is directly dished into plastic bags. The heat from the food may cause plastic bags to leach some chemicals such as bisphenol A which may cause cancer. Aside cancer chemicals produced from plastic bags also lead to obesity, ulcer and so on. The chemicals not only break down one's immune system but also has effects on the brain. The lives of many people are put at risk since it is usual for food to be packaged using plastic bags. The use of plastic bags must therefore be forbidden.

Indeed, plastic bags have a good role in portability but their threatening effects on water bodies, soil, air, and human health cannot be overlooked. Plastic bags could be substituted with

other items such as paper bags and so on to create other alternatives for it. Therefore, with all these effects it is deemed fit that the production and usage of plastic bags should be banned.

#### UGCD-162

Plastic bags are a suitable way adapted by sellers and consumers to carry their purchased goods when they go shopping. This has become the way of life of most people inhabiting the world. In many kitchens of people this day has been filled with plastic bags due to its important ecological advantages. Apart from its positive impacts, destruction of aquatic animals and marine life, harmful to human health, environmental pollution and not easy to recycle are the negative effects of plastic bags and these offer the necessary reasons to be banned from the system.

One negative effect of plastic bags is the destruction of aquatic animals and marine life, which makes it necessary to be banned. In many places especially the cities and well – developed towns, plastic bags are found almost everywhere in the surrounding. Because plastic bags are lightweight, they are easily carried away by flood and wind during rainy seasons and deposits them into the rivers which in turn convey them into the seas because of its numerous tributaries. This contaminates the sea since these filthy bags found on floors are being transported into the sea. Most fishes in the sea are being deceived by the appearances of the plastic bags and therefore consume them as food. This creates many problems for these aquatic wildlife since the digestion of these plastic bags become complex and later leads to death. When this challenge continues over protracted period of time, many aquatic wildlife may not survive and therefore should be banned to protect life.

A second negative impact of plastic bags is that, it is harmful to human health. Most at times, tiny plastics are found in the faeces of people. Many soft drinks such as malt, coca cola, and fanta that are taken by people contain some amount of micro plastics. These tiny plastics get into the stomach of many people which in turn have adverse effects on the body. When the micro plastics go into the stomach, they add up with the food and get digested by the intestines and the pancreas in the stomach. Because plastics are hard substance and can not be broken down easily, they create tiny holes in the intestines and the pancreas which result in stomach ache and causes other serious problems for people. To avoid this incident, plastic bags should be banned.

A third negative effect is that, it causes environmental pollution. This is seen in the sense that, almost every street in the cities especially Ghana is deposited with plastic bags. Because plastic bags are common in shops, whenever a consumer buys a good, it is put in a plastic bag. This makes movement easier and therefore it has become the culture in this modern world. Because of this, majority of people litter in streets and this causes sickness. Because when waste rubbers are choked up in the environment, it breeds mosquitoes which will bite people and be infected by malaria and at the end may cause death.

A fourth negative impact of plastic bags is that, they are not easy to recycle. Plastic bags are not easy to recycle unlike the other resources which can be renewed easily. When plastic bags are sent into industries for recycling, it sometimes create numerous problems making its difficult to be processed into different materials. For example a polythene bag which is part of the plastic bags will be cumbersome to be recycled into different material. Also, the decomposition of plastic bags which can serve as a source of nutrients for the growth and development of plant takes longer time to operate. Therefore the inability to be recycled into a different shape contributes for its banning from the system.

To conclude, the negative impacts of plastic bags are enormous in many countries, destruction of aquatic wildlife and marine life, harmful to human health, environmental pollution and not easy recycling are some negative effects of plastic bags. Therefore to curb this problem, plastic bags should be banned from the system.

#### UGCD-163

Plastics are typically organic polymers of high molecular mass. They are usually synthetic most commonly most derived from petrochemicals, however, an array of variants are from renewable materials such as, polylactic acid from corn or cellulose from cotton linters. Plastic bags are type of container made of a thin flexible plastic film or nonwoven fabric. Plastic bags are used for containing and transporting goods such as, foods, powders, ice, chemicals and waste. Plastic bags are very advantageous to our daily life activities. But plastic bags have their own disadvantages.

First and foremost, plastic bag courses environmental damage. A single plastic takes about 1,000 years to decay completely. Plastic bags contain chemical structures that resist them from many natural degradation processes and as a result they are slow to degrade. As a result of this, the plastic bags are been left on the surface of the land for a long period of time. This affect the

soil fertility, nutrition, moisture and the PH of the soil. This as a result leads to lack of fertile land for farming, outbreak of plant diseases, stunted growth in plant which reduce the rate of food production. Henceforth, plastic bags is a factor for land deterioration.

Secondly, plastic bags cause pollution. Plastic pollution is the accumulation of plastic waste which is a threat to vegetation, human life and wildlife. Individuals all over the world dump plastic bags anywhere and anyhow. The plastic bags end up in our gutters which result into choked gutters, this serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Also, the scent from the gutters pollutes the air. In addition, plastic bags are one of the main factors of marine pollution. When it rains the plastic bags in the gutters are been transported into the water bodies which contaminate the water bodies. This may result in the killing of fishes and other living creatures in the marine environment. Also, may result in lack of treated water for domestic purpose and irrigation.

Moreover, plastic fumes are deadly. The burning of plastic release toxic gases such as, dioxide and furans mercury into the atmosphere, poses a threat to vegetation, humans and animal health. Dioxin and furans can cause death, if this element are in the atmosphere and an individual inhale it into his or her system may result in skin lesions, such as chloracne and patchy darkening of the skin, kidney and liver damage. May also cause cancer, impotence, asthma, and a myriad of other determinant effect to human beings.

In conclusion, the above point are the main reason why plastic bags should be prohibited. Paper bag must be used rather than plastic bags. Also, the government must provide trash can at various places. In addition, law must be made to punish individual which dump plastic bags anywhere and anyhow. If measures are not made to prevent this, in years to come it will be very difficult for as to get fertile land for farming, fishes for consumption, treated water for domestic purpose and irrigation and our great children will not be happy with our deeds.

#### UGCD-164

The urbanization, technical revolution, and the ease of every process have led to the usage of plastic in such a way that plastics have become an inevitable component in our day to day life. Plastic bags have become a very common commodity that these are given for free during the purchases at the grocery shops or vegetable shops. But the actual scenario is, instead of making our lives easy, these plastic bags are the root cause of various issues like environmental pollution, illness in humans and animals, etc. As a result, these are some of the problems of using plastic bags:

To begin, these plastic bags that we rely on for our every purchase at every store are perilous for the environment. The problem of using plastic bags is much more serious than it actually appears. Various studies report that these plastic bags are the major cause of water pollution. Additionally, these plastic bags make our fertile agricultural land highly infertile by occupying the underground and avoiding the uptake of minerals by the plants.

Secondly, the increased use of plastic bags makes the disposal of them a herculean task. As plastic is non-biodegradable, it takes almost 5000 years for the degradation to take place. The plastic bags can clog our waterways and is also a very harmful toxin for the aquatic life. Plastic bag wastes cannot be even disposed of through incineration as the process releases harmful gases that can deteriorate the atmosphere.

Moreover, on a larger scale, plastic bags should be banned as they can be dreadful to wild and marine life as well. Many times, these bags are mistaken for eatables by birds and animals. The plastic, which is consumed by these species, will then congest their digestive tracts, often leading to health problems like infections. Sometimes, this could even lead to the death of these animals by suffocation.

Above all, there are some external costs linked to these plastic bags. In addition to the costs linked to the production and buying of these plastic bags, there are other costs, such as; environmental costs, Resource extraction, Resource depletion, Loss of quality of life, Economic loss, Wildlife loss.

In conclusion, Plastic bags are banned in most of the countries globally. However, we must understand that mere ban can never help to sort the hazardous effects of the plastic bags. It is high time that we realize the importance of our precious environment and avoid things that can degrade our environment. It is proved that plastics and plastic made materials like bags and toys are making the lifecycle of plants, animals and of course, the users of the plastic bags, the humans tougher. So, let's go green and avoid plastics for a safer environment and a healthier life.

## UGCD-165

Plastic bags are everywhere in our environment, we use them as the mode of packaging our groceries purchased. Plastics bags are beneficiary to humans, animals, other wildlife and some living things despite its major side effects. The use of plastic bags is considered as one major issue that Humans are facing in their contemporary life. Some semi-peripheral countries have banned the use of plastic bags. The use of plastic bags should be banned have its Pros and Cons in other countries. the details discussion on the Pros on plastic bags should be banned are discussed below:

To start, Plastic bags do not only pollute our water but our land. Plastic bags are usually lightweight and as such, they can travel very long distance by either wind or water. The wind

blows these plastic bags and trashes a whole area. These litters get caught up in between trees, fences and floats in water bodies thus moving to the world's oceans. Plastic is non-bio-degradable and thus causes a pollution. Plastic bags can prove to be a choke hazard for small animals and people, plastic water bottles are also thought to be carcinogenic.

In addition, Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life. Birds, animals, and marine life such as turtles and fish often mistake the plastic bag and other plastic materials for food and consume them. What happens is that once they consume these plastic materials is that their digestive system gets congested leading to the development of health infections and death when there is suffocation, which leads to polluting the water bodies and affect other animals who drink from these sources of water the side effects are so high to the extent that it may also make the animals become easily entangled inside the plastic.

Also, Plastic bags are harmful to human health. There are some chemicals from the plastic bags which can disrupt the normal functioning of hormones in the body. Most plastic fragments in the oceans like plastic bags have some pollutants such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl) together with PAHs (Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) which are hormone-disrupting. Once the marine animals consume these chemicals, they move through the food web then later into humans who consume fish together with other marine animals. The chemical materials bio-accumulate in the sea animals and fish system as they are exposed to them in the ocean waters. When humans prepare them, they consume all these chemicals affecting their healths.

Finally, the cost of plastic bags cleanup in every country is very high, thus, the plastic considered free is not free after all. Individuals pay a lot to purchase them and even for reusing them. Plastic bags after using are difficult to clean when they wet on the environment. In conclusion, plastic bags pollute our land, plastic bags are harmful, plastic bags are costly. For these reasons' plastic bags should be banned.

UGCD-166

Plastic bags have been in the system for long in which we use to carry items being bought from sellers. To start, I would first like to define what a plastic bag is, a plastic bag is made of a thin, flexible plastic material, especially one with handles supplied by a shop to carry goods

purchased there. Plastic bags can be made from one of these three basic types, high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene or linear low density polyethylene. Some of the points I would like to discuss on why I think plastic bags should be banned are;

Plastic bags causes environmental damage; plastic bags are known to cause a lot of environmental damage. A single plastic bag can take up to 1000 years to decay completely. This makes the bags stay in environments longer, in turn leading to great build up on the natural landscape much more than degradable materials like paper. The more plastic bags we use the greater the chances of environmental damage and it pollutes the environment in all dimensions such as the air and water pollution and land degradation as well.

Furthermore, plastic bags produce toxic when it is burnt; after plastic bags are been used some people intend burning them, and when it been burnt its produces toxic fumes which is released into the atmosphere, which causes the depletion of the ozone layer and also releases greenhouse gases when they are exposed to ultraviolet radiation. When the greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere it falls back to the surface of the earth as rain, which is very harmful to our body system and it causes a lot of diseases, plants and animals die as well.

Due to the leaching of plastic bags, it can easily contaminate food products; many of us buy food in plastic bags, when the plastic bag leaches it enters our food and when we eat it is very harmful to our body system

Finally, plastic bags are also harmful to animals and wild life as marine life. Turtles and birds have been reported to die every year, mainly because of plastics in their environment.

In conclusion I suggest that plastic bags should be sent to recycling institutions or industries after been used. I hope the following points I have discussed will be taken into consideration to ban the use of plastic bags. Thank you.



Plastic bags are essentials that traders or shop owners use to serve customers because they are convenient. On the other hand, the convenience of these items is very harmful to our society and environment. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and therefore plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it greatly. A lot of countries around the world like China, Morocco and Bangladesh have either taxed or partially banned the use of plastic bags. However, this is not effective since the bags are being used in numerous countries like Ghana. Plastic bags should be banned totally and these are the reasons:

To begin, plastic bags are not easy to recycle. Every year, trillions of plastic bags are made. In spite of the numbers that are produced, just 10% of these plastic bags end up in recycling facilities. Since plastic bags tend to get caught up in the recycling machinery, most recycling facilities do not accept them. Eventually, these bags are left to litter the community choke gutters or burnt and this poses danger to the environment.

Also, plastic bags pollute the land and water. Plastic bags do not degrade quickly; but when they do, they breakdown chemical toxins into the soil and therefore make the land infertile for crops to grow well. The bags are light weight and can easily travel long distances by the wind. These bags enter the sea or even the oceans to threaten aquatic organisms and the world as a whole. However the plastic bags can be replaced with jute, calico or cotton which are much heavy and can decompose easily.

Lastly, plastic bags are harmful to human health. Although plastic bags were made to replace paper bags, it has caused more harm and danger to human life. Plastic fragments from plastic bags can absorb pollutants which are mostly hormone- disrupting chemicals. Besides,

marine organisms often mistake plastic bags for food and consume it. The chemicals make their way through fish and other aquatic organisms. Unfortunately, this has become one of the gradual killers of the human race.

In short, though plastic bags have become a threat to the environment, this problem has been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people are not concerned with the long term effect of these portable bags they use in everyday life. Moreover all of these people keep using the bags due to their convenience. But now, the usage of plastic bags has to stop to help save our environment.

UGCD-168

Plastic bags are made of long chains of ethylene monomer molecules which are derived from natural gas and petroleum. The appearance of a plastic bag is enhanced by adding colour dyes and other additives. Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily life, from 'pure water' sachets to huge containers. The health hazards surrounding the use of plastic have resulted in its ban in many countries such as China, Kenya, Bangladesh. Three common threats associated with plastic use are: their resistance to decomposition, the problem of littering in our streets, and the harmful challenge they pose to the environment.

To begin, one danger of plastics is its resistance to decomposition. Plastic bags do not undergo natural decomposition due to the non-degradable properties of plastic. Hence, the effect of plastic bag use on soil fertility and its contribution to environmental pollution is devastating. Plastic does not decompose easily in the soil; it remains in the soil, destroying the water holding capacity and micro-organisms which helps in fertilizing the soil. It also contaminates the soil with unsafe chemicals that deprive plants from growing properly. With aquatic animals especially, plastic bags are mistaken for food, which causes suffocation and in other cases causes indigestion in some animals when they end up consuming them. Usually, such circumstances result to death and bloat.

Another danger of plastics is how plastics bags litter our streets indiscriminately. When plastics are not properly disposed, children tend to play with them. As a matter of fact, children

are attracted to plastic bags of different colours and sizes. When children are carelessly exposed to such attractive plastics it results in suffocation when mishandled by the child. Also improper disposal of plastics has led to the obstruction of flow of water in drainage systems. During heavy downpour, the obstruction causes flooding, insanitary conditions and deteriorate water quality.

In addition, the use of plastic bags in the long run poses a harmful challenge to the environment. There is no doubt that global warming and climate change are the typical challenges our world faces today. The high demand for plastic bags for packaging are chosen precisely because they are durable and affordable. The combustion and production of plastic involves the emission of greenhouse gasses that are capable of depleting the ozone layer, exposing the environment to diverse risks including global warming and climate change. Plastic bags have always been a threat to ecological imbalance.

In conclusion, the situation surrounding plastic bags gets worse every day. As a matter of fact, the use of plastic bags must be banned and other alternative ecofriendly materials such as paper sacks and wooden packages must be adopted instead. The ill effects of plastic bags must be publicized. This can be achieved efficiently through the Environmental Protection Agencies, the press and strict governmental policies.

#### UGCD-169

Plastic bags, commonly referred to in Ghana as polythene bags are common forms of packaging made of thin, flexible, plastic film which are used for containing and transporting goods like food, water, chemicals, waste, produce and magazines. However, its use has raised lots of concern that leads to highlighting the various advantages and disadvantages of its use.

The adverse impact of plastic bags are undeniable; Firstly, plastic bags threaten wildlife. They tend to disrupt the environment negatively. When dumped, they leach into the soil and release toxic chemicals. They eventually break down mixing with the soil which animals mistake for food, choking and killing them. A number of marine animals like jellyfish, starfish, octopus, shrimps to mention a few are killed every year from plastic bags littered in the sea and water bodies.

Secondly, plastic bags affects human health. Toxic chemicals leach out of plants and are found in the blood and tissue of nearly all humans. Exposure to them is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruptions and other ailments.

Thirdly, plastic bags attracts other pollutants. Chemicals in plastic which give them their rigidity or flexibility are oily poisons that repel water and stick to petroleum-based objects like

plastic debris; the toxic chemicals that leach out of plastic can accumulate on other amounts of plastic debris accumulating in the world's oceans.

The benefits of plastic bags cannot be overlooked just because they are a threat to the environment. Plastic bags are quicker to open and pack. They are quicker to open, pack and double up and this is why they are widely used by busy cashier's to keep queues moving efficiently. It also takes up less space than paper bags, both in storage and at cashier points. In contrast to the paper bags, reusable cloth bags consume more space and are considerably heavier.

Also, plastic bags are biodegradable. Most of the plastic bags are biodegradable; they can be broken down in a reasonable amount of time as waste. They decompose by bacteria or other living organisms and leave no trace behind and are safe for the environment.

Finally, plastic bags are cheaper in price and good for branding. These bags made of plastic compared to that of paper bags and other packing materials cost less in price and also having good branding attracts new and more customers.

To conclude, our creative abilities are enhanced by the production of new things like plastic bags which aids in the promotion of human life, health, comfort, convenience, wealth, efficiency and productivity.

#### UGCD-170

Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily lives from lunch bags, bottles, food containers and even pen covers. Plastics have the lion's share in most things benefitting human needs and the most commonly used form of plastic is the plastic bag. They have many purposes such as carrying groceries and storing materials for later use. Plastic bags are more harmful than they appear despite how often we use them. The subsequent paragraphs show why plastic bags should be banned as they are detrimental to the ecosystem.

To start, plastic bags tend to destroy the environment in a serious way. Even though plastic bags are one of the most used items, they tend to be the main source of litter and environmental pollution. Plastic bags have caused a great deal of problems in many swampy areas as they have choked water bodies through improper disposal. Also, according to the College of Health and Medical Sciences in Ethiopia, 51% of people dump their used plastic bags into sewers and other water bodies. The plastic bags then choke the gutters, inhibiting the smooth flow of water, which may cause the spread of diseases such as cholera and malaria as well as the flooding of surrounding areas.

Moreover, plastic bags also cause great harm to wildlife and marine life. Marine animals suffer a great risk when we improperly dispose plastic bags. They ingest plastic bags and since it cannot be digested they end up choking or suffocating. The harm plastic bags cause does not only affect marine life but transcend to birds and other creatures that feed on them. Wildlife are also at a risk as they mistaken plastic bags for food then later suffer health issues like intestinal

blockage. Improper disposal of plastic waste, if not controlled, will destroy many animal lives and in turn destroy human life in the long run.

Furthermore, plastic bags are also detrimental to human health. According to International Institute for Environment and Development, plastic bags are made from fossil fuels which contain toxic chemicals such as Bisphenol A(BPA) which when consumed pose a health risk to humans. When we improperly dispose of plastic bags by burning, we release chemicals that are not good for our health into the environment. These toxins which are not meant to be consumed later affect us and cause immune system problems such as cancers, asthma, liver failure and kidney problems.

To conclude, plastic bags create various problems to human kind and animal life as well. Although plastic bags help us a great deal, they tend to cause more problems than solutions. Government institutions should strive to make laws to ban the usage of these bags at all costs. We, as individuals should also endeavor to help the community in our own way by reducing how much we use plastic bags so that our environment and that of our animals will be at a lesser risk.

#### UGCD-171

Demand for plastic bags is on the rise as a result of its durability, lightweight and low cost across the globe. In Ghana for instance, according to research about 73% of waste in the country is made of plastic bags due to diverse roles plastic bags are used for. Therefore, plastic bags should be banned because it causes environmental pollution, it difficult to decompose, it causes natural disaster and contribute to climatic change.

To begin, plastic bags are causes of environmental pollution. Most of the filth in our society are from plastic bags and they fill up both the land and water bodies. They make the environment unclean if not properly disposed. In most beaches in Ghana, plastic bags have destroyed its beauty by decorating the beaches with plastic bags from users of the beach and also the wind depositing plastic bags from all angles. Plastic bags has therefore contributed to the poor sanitation conditions in most parts of the world especially Ghana. Plastic bags should therefore be banned to reduce the level of environmental pollution that it has caused.

In addition, plastic bags are difficult to decompose. The material used in making plastic bags makes it difficult for them to breakdown. As a result, they last longer in the environment and contribute to poor sanitation. Plastic can remain buried in the soil for years and will not

deteriorate. In some cases, when plastic bags get into the soil the chemicals used in making them deteriorate into the soil which is harmful to the soil and microorganisms in the soil.

Furthermore, plastic bags can contribute to natural disasters like flooding. Plastic bags when not properly discarded can block the passage of water and also cause water bodies to overflow its banks. Plastics gets in the way of drainage systems and cause gutters and other forms of drainage to get choked. Thus, when it rains the water gets no passage for free movement and forces its way out and therefore leads to flooding and destroys properties and in extreme cases can lead to the loss of life's especially during heavy down pours and gutters are not frequently distilled the individuals in these areas suffer the consequences.

Also, plastic bags contribute to climate change. Plastic bags originates from fossil fuels and in the process of making them they generate heat trapping gases which is harmful to the atmosphere and overtime results in global warming and eventually alters the atmospheric system. This alters rainfall patterns especially and other weather conditions and can affect the usual weather phenomenon.

In conclusion, plastic bags are harmful when not properly taken care of and therefore, it is the duty of everyone to make sure that plastic bags are disposed well. In other cases, there can be other alternatives to replace plastic bags and eventually its use can be banned.

## UGCD-172

Plastic bags have been the leading way of packaging items which is used worldwide. Every shop, supermarket and restaurants uses these plastic bags in packaging what customers purchase. The use of plastic bags makes packaging easy and portable which also serves as a means of employment. Aside these positive side of plastic bags, there are negative aspect which can be a great impact on the environment, economic life, agriculture, and also causes pollution, diseases and death. Banning the use of plastic bags will reduce these negative effect and if banned will also have a positive effect on the country. We cannot talk about only the disadvantages without considering the good things it has done to the world.

Plastic bag is a great waste in our environment due to the improper disposal of it which cause great damage as well. It litters our street and also increases the filth in the nation. During the rainy season, rain water washes away the plastic bags littered around into gutters and the ocean. The plastic bags chokes the gutters and when rain water do not get any space, it then gets to the street, floods the whole place and then gets into our homes. This leads to loss of lives and

properties. Choked gutters if not cleared breeds mosquitoes and caused diseases like malaria and its related diseases. These diseases can cause loss of lives of the citizens. If plastic bags are banned will help reduce these great effects.

Plastic bags do not decompose which is very difficult and expensive to clean from the environment because it lasts for long. Instead of it decomposing, it rather breaks down into pieces and ends up in the ocean which makes it poisonous to be consumed by living organisms. As time goes on more plastic bags will be produced and used which will continue to pollute the ocean, environment, spoils the soil and makes it infertile. It is very hard and expensive to remove them from the seas and ocean. Living organisms in them turn to die and the ocean becomes contaminated to use. Therefore, there is a need for plastic bags to be banned.

Additionally, these plastic bags make our fertile land highly infertile. Thus, by entering the ground and preventing the plants to gain minerals. This will reduce the food production in the country. The rate at which food is produced will reduce and lead to starvation. As a result of this, there will be loss of lives, the government will then import food stuffs which will also affect the economy of the country, that is high tax on the imports. Therefore, plastic bags should be banned.

In conclusion, although plastic bags make packaging easier there are other means we can use in packaging items which includes paper bags. If banned there would be loss of employment but our lives are more important. We should take into consideration the use of paper bags than that of plastic bags.

## UGCD-173

A Plastic bag may be a sort of a container fabricated from thin, flexible, plastic film, nonwoven fabric or plastic textile. Plastic bags are used for holding and transporting goods like foods, produce, powders, chemicals and waste. Plastic bags are a great enemy to the environment because they are biodegradable and contribute to environmental pollution among other hazards. Plastic bags do not decompose early making their disposal a huge challenge. Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily lives. The one stop bag which comes as a solution to carrying liquids, commodities to garments, plastic bags have been a rage since the beginning of time. So, it is high time we eradicate this item from our environment, if we are unable to put conscious effort to recycle it. Oceanic wildlife, our environments are being severely impacted by plastic waste, therefore policies like the plastic bag ban are imperative to prevent pollution.

To begin, plastic bags degrade the fertility of the soil. When plastic bags react with the soil it reduces the fertility of the soil. Due to the significant impact on the soil, they cannot be decomposed. Plastic bags with contact with the soil reduce agricultural yield because the soil's fertility reduces. Soil nutrient helps agricultural yield and when the plastics do not decompose, no nutrient is added to the soil.

Furthermore, plastic bags raise health issues. When they are heaped up, the dumping yards become the breeding ground for microorganisms that are sources of different life-threatening

diseases. Some microorganisms like mosquitoes breed in these areas where the plastic bags are heaped up, causing many epidemics to our health.

Again, Plastic bags are harmful to animals and marine creatures. Birds often mistake shredded plastic waste as food. These plastic bags, commonly consumed by these animals often cause health problems like infections as a result of the shredded plastic bags congesting in their digestive tracts. Sometimes this even results in the untimely deaths of the animals by suffocation. Animals who also swallow plastic bags often suffer from intestinal obstructions which usually cause a protracted, slow and painful deaths. Animals can even be poisoned by the chemicals accustomed create the luggage or from the chemicals that the plastic has absorbed while making its way through the environment.

Also, plastic bags litter the environment. Plastic is invincible, it does not allow decay. When plastic bags are not disposed off properly it blocks drainage systems. The blockage of these drainage systems leads to the pollution of the environment. Plastic bags are of light weight so they are been carried away by air easily.

To sum up, there is no doubt that plastic bags have made our lives easier from different points of view. Since there is no conscious effort made to recycle them, the best approach is banning plastic bags. It is time we understand the intensity at which plastic bags are destroying our surroundings and making life difficult for plants, animals, marine creatures as well as humans.

UGCD-174

Plastic bags are made from crude oil and are used in every part of the world. They are helpful in storing items and are convenient but pose a lot of risks to humans. Plastic bags have negative impacts on the land and water bodies, although they can help by being reused at least once as compared to paper bags.

Plastic bags should be banned due to their harmful effect on the land. Plastic bags are usually mounted in heaps. The heaps breed various organisms which transmit diseases like malaria, cholera and dysentery. In addition, plastic bags on the land are carelessly fed upon by goats, cows, cats, monkeys and other land animals blocking their digestive system and making them die slowly. Human beings consume these animals which makes them suffer from ailments. Furthermore, another issue occurs when plastic bags interact with soil and reduce its fertility due to its blockage of the soils access to the air system and preventing soil organisms from doing their necessary tasks leading to the doom of crops. Plastics really cause harm to the land and its organisms.



Furthermore, plastic bags tend to pollute water bodies. They are lightweight making air carry them to other parts of the environment, particularly water bodies. People dump plastic bags anywhere and the wind carries them to the water bodies. Plastic bags do not decompose easily, therefore in the presence of water bodies, they tend to breakdown into little pieces of itself, which has had a high negative effect on aquatic food web. Studies report that close to 1,000,000 plastic bag fragments can be found in every part of the oceans, and is now more than the aquatic feed in the oceans. Fishes either end up dead or become ill as they feed on these plastic bags thinking it's what they have to consume. Human beings then consume the fishes which fed on the plastic bags and it affects their health. In effect, they destroy the content of water bodies and the organisms that live in or depend on them.

On the contrary, plastic bags can be reused at least once. Plastic bags unlike paper bags can be used more than once because they are convenient and durable. They are used in shopping and can carry items for long unlike paper bags which get destroyed quickly. They can be used in offices and homes as bins instead of spending money in buying a trash can. Plastic bags can as well be recycled to items such as cups and bottles, but the sad thing is that a greater percentage of the plastic bags end up in landfills or are incinerated.

Plastic bags destroy land and water bodies but can be reused. The decision of whether to prohibit plastic bags or not has not been amicably settled because though they pose health risks to the environment, they help in handling goods. Proper disposal of plastic waste can reduce the dangers it brings to the environment.

UGCD-175

A plastic bag is a type of container made of thin, flexible or plastic film or textile according to Wikipedia. Plastic bags serve the purpose of packaging for the transportation and containing of items worldwide. Despite its indelible benefits in the life of man, plastic bags pose several dangers as well. Plastic bags lead to pollution, kill animal species, and cause health problems and thus should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags cause environmental pollution. Humans generate so much plastic bag waste on a daily basis. Since they are lightweight and not environmentally friendly, they are

easily carried around by wind and water from place to place to pollute nature. Accumulation of wrongly disposed plastic bag waste overtime leads to clogging of drains and sewage systems that subsequently cause flooding. They also release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere when they come in contact with UV radiation. Plastic takes thousands of years to decompose. As a result, it lays around contaminating soils, water bodies and even the air when burnt. Plastic bags contaminate the environment and make plant and human life

In addition, plastic bags kill wildlife. Plastic bags are harmful to animal life. Marine life such as sea turtles, sharks, and whales among the lot mistake displaced plastic bags that end up in the sea or ocean for jellyfish; a food source for marine creatures. Also, creatures could be entangled- restricting movement, ability to hunt prey for feeding or ability to escape predators and even cause strangulation. Consumption of the litter has long-term effects on marine life, even worse death or extinction.

Again, plastic bags in the environment cause health problems for humans. Plastic bag waste that end up in water bodies intoxicate [through consumption of plastic particles] marine creatures [the very creatures that are part of the food chain and consumed by humans] since they do not decay over long periods. Using plastic bags to package food and beverages is also a factor. Studies have shown that long term use and exposure of plastic to high temperature can cause chemical leach into foods which would lead to health problems such as cancers, skin diseases, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases and so on. Burning of plastic bags domestically or in factories releases toxic fumes into the atmosphere that cause health hazards as well.

In conclusion, the production and use of plastic bags must be overhauled, better yet, completely banned to protect individuals from health hazards, preserve wildlife and keep creatures from going extinct and hopefully curb the canker of environmental pollution worldwide as well.

UGCD-176

Plastics are a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic organic compounds that are malleable and so can be molded into solid objects like plastic water bottles, plastic cups, plastic bowls and

most importantly plastic bags. The plastics bags usually made of polythene or polypropylene were first introduced in Ghana in the 1960s to reduce stress in carrying and handling things. Over the past years plastics bags have been a problem for the country due to the adverse usage of them that is why plastic bags have to be banned.

One reason why plastic bags should be banned is the health risk associated with them. Plastic bags are usually made of chemicals that are toxic to human beings especially when they are used to store hot items or food. The negative health effects of plastic bags include; cancer, blindness, endocrine disruptions, indigestion, or the disruption of normal physiological levels of sex hormones (Ecology Centre, 2016). When plastic bags are introduced to heat, they emit these dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere and these chemicals deplete the ozone layer resulting in global warming.

Plastic bags do not just cause harm to the atmosphere. They also cause harm to land and the environment if not used properly. Plastics bags can take up to 1000 years to degrade. Because of the poor waste management habits of most Ghanaians, plastic bags end up thickly compressed by generations or lying in the middle of the street, a blight on the landscape. The ones that are unweight by decaying refuse are picked up by gusts of air and distributed around cities, choking drains, floating in water bodies, trapping wildlife, and killing animals. Plastic bags are also a main cause of deterioration of environment. Nature is being destroyed by these plastic bags due to their harmful effects. One factor of water pollution in Ghana is plastic bags that enter the various water bodies. They also choke gutters therefore causing floods.

Plastic bags also pose as dangers to marine life and animals. This is because, fish and other animals consume the plastic bags with their food because they can be found in the various water bodies and even on land and because these plastics bags contain toxic chemicals and can even take up to 1000 years to degrade, they pose as real life threats to these animals. Research also shows that plastic bags have been a major reason for untimely animal deaths which is extremely disturbing because we also consume these animals as food therefore posing as health risks to humans too.

Finally, plastic bags should be banned because they are a huge cause to floods and other disasters in the world. Plastic bags that are not disposed off properly tend to find their way into various

drainage systems in the country and if these plastic bags are not removed and they pile up can cause floods in the country. For example, June 3rd disaster in Ghana.

In conclusion, plastic bags should be banned and paper bags should be adopted and used in the country because of its degradable nature and the stress free that comes with it.

UGCD-177

Today in our world, we will see a lot of people carrying their plastic bags for shopping and other purposes which is made of plastic. Plastic bags are really portable and convenient for most people to carry things they have bought. In contrast, there are many disadvantages of using plastic bags. If you know that plastic bags have negative effects like (increasing the severity of Global Warming, Soil Pollution, killing of animals and non-degradable waste) for our environment, I am sure that reducing the use of plastic bags will be done with immediate effect.

As we know, using plastic bags are really convenient for all of us to carry things. In contrast, using bags is increasing the severity of Global Warming that we are confronting at the moment. The plastic bags production uses almost ten percent of the world's annual oil supply. Only few percent of this number is recycled. This means that much of the planet's precious natural resources are being used to produce plastic bags. The chemicals and compounds that go into making plastic bags could also be utilized in a far more effective manner. These two facts show that plastic bag production is a waste of resources.

In addition, we can use and hold plastic bags everywhere we need like supermarkets, stores or homes but plastic bags can damage environment. Throwing plastic bags could make the soil unfertile which is described as soil pollution. We need fertile soil to help plants grow and provide enough food for all of us. Animals also need soil because it makes plants grow and animals will eat those plants. This is a part of natural food chain.

What's more bad point of using plastic bags is to kill, plastic bags can kill and have killed many animals. The tragedy is that once the animals eat the plastic bags, they can get caught up and wrapped round the gut or in the throat. This cause suffocation and starvation.

The last but not least is that, these plastic bags are even non-biodegradable. According to experts, 17 Billion plastic bags approximately are given to British consumers. We do not need this many plastic bags in the world. The pollution caused by their creation alone is enough to warrant a ban on their manufacture and uses. In addition, they do not degrade well in our rubbish dumps.

To Conclude, we have known that after all plastic bags are used, they will be bad wastes of the world. So, we can do little work to avoid plastic as much as possible. In order to, stop global warming, keep nutritious food sources, avoid being criminals, and be able to degrade our biodegradable wastes, we should use fabric bags instead of the plastic ones.

## UGCD-178

Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily life. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastics possess the lion's share. If we merely take a look around us, we can find umpteen items which have plastic content in it. Being cheap and easy to carry, it has managed to creep into every household. Despite being aware of the health hazards caused by plastic bags, people continue to use it on a regular basis. The plastic bag is a major villain that poses a threat to the ecology in general and living things in particular. So it is high time that we eradicate the deathly item from our environment, if we are unable to put a conscious effort to recycle it. The following reasons are some of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

Firstly, plastic bags mounted in heaps raises much public health issues. The dumping yards become the breeding grounds of microorganisms that are sources of different life-threatening diseases. These can also lead to the multiplication of mosquitoes, rats, etc., which are the carriers of many epidemics. Plastic bags have proven to cause a visible depletion of natural resources. It is also found to enter into drainage system resulting in severe blocks. The use of plastic bags, in the long run, seeks to contribute to climate change and global warming. The process of manufacturing plastics involves the emission of greenhouse gases. Hence plastic bags are proven to cause the ecological imbalance which threatens the environment, which is our basic life supporting system.

Again, plastic bags littered carelessly are fed upon by cows, dogs, cats, monkeys, etc, this in turn block their digestive system and ultimately render them a slow death. So the use of plastic bags is quite dangerous to animals. Moreover, children, if exposed to plastic items are at high risks of suffocation. They seem to be quite attracted to the plastic bags of different colours and shape, which is very hazardous.

Moreover, these bags kill our wildlife. They kill not only marine animals, but also animals on land. Many species already becoming endangered as it is. These plastic bags are adding to the death toll of animals, and it could increase their chances of being endangered, or even extinct. About one million mammals and sea birds die per year due to ingesting plastic bags. They are mistaken as food. The animals die a slow and painful death, usually by choking.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that plastic bags have made our lives simpler from multiple points of view. We see them blowing around on the roads and they regularly wind up in streams and the seas. These bags can be unsafe to creatures, for example, turtles, that ingest them or are choked by them, particularly in marine conditions where plastic bags look like jellyfish and other eatable things.

## UGCD-179

Plastic bags are a modern and affordable way of packaging various products, they are made from crude oil and are non-biodegradable therefore have many negative impacts on the

environment such as on wildlife, aquatic environments and forests and even on human life. This discussion illustrates the various reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

First and foremost, plastic bags pollute water bodies and affect aquatic life. Due to the high demand for plastic bags for retail businesses, plastic bags are mass produced. They are light in weight so they easily get blown by the wind and travel long distances. Plastic bags therefore end up in drainage systems and clog them up causing possible flooding in the future. Water bodies are polluted by plastic bags which destroy aquatic life such as fishes which get trapped in them and suffocate which ultimately leads to their death.

Secondly, plastic bags are harmful to human health by polluting our food and water. Due to high plastic pollution rate in many communities, plastic bags end up in our water bodies, fishes and other marine animals that feed on the plastic bags. When humans eat fish that has eaten plastic bags we will be affected by the plastic in the fish which will later cause health problems. Ingesting pieces of plastic bags causes stress on the liver and other vital organs in the body since it cannot be digested. Also, toxic chemicals from the plastic bags can damage the kidneys when they leach into them and can even be lethal if it is not detected and treated early.

Furthermore, plastic bags are non-biodegradable therefore disposing of them becomes an issue. They can remain on land for years and they take up viable land which could be used for cultivation of crops, roads and others. Plastic bags which are not disposed off properly end up as litter on the forest floor which disrupts the ecosystem of wildlife in the forest and affect the proper growth of trees and crops, since they get into the soil and break down emitting some toxic chemicals which causes the death of many plants and animals in that region.

To conclude, there are better alternatives to plastic bags which cause lesser environmental defects. One of the best environmentally safe alternatives are reusable bags made of jute, cloth, paper and mesh. These materials are recyclable, reusable and durable as compared to single use plastic bags hence they cut back on environmental waste. This discussion clearly illustrates the negative effects plastic bags have on the environment and even on human life and also lists alternative materials which can be used to replace plastic bags which cause lesser if any environmental defects.

UGCD-180

The use of plastic bags has somehow become an everyday thing in our society. Plastic bags which were invented in the late 1950's by a well known Swedish engineer to help people with easy transportation of their things. Plastic bag, a common commodity which is given as free during the purchase of products has become a threat to life on earth. These bags gradually become a part of our life and have caused more harm than it is intended purpose hence these bags are to be banned. Some reasons why plastic bags are to be banned are; pollution of land and water bodies, bringing about some diseases and harmful to wildlife and aquatic animals.

Firstly, Pollution of land and water bodies is one of the major reasons why plastic rubbers are to be banned. This is as a result of the improper disposal of the plastic bags. Some people tend to be ignorant and just dump refuses anywhere. Some tend to dump them in gutters and some just leave it there. When these rubbers or bags get into the gutters they choke it and this brings about floods and other disasters. When these bags are left on their own they easily get blown away by the wind because of how thin and light they are, they therefore end up in our water bodies and some also end up on trees and fences of people houses and litter the environment. A very good example is the KORLE lagoon in the GA-east region of Ghana has been polluted with so much rubbers and plastic bags and now looks like a dump site.

Secondly, plastic bags are really harmful to humans. Plastic bags are made from polyethelene which consists of long chains of ethylene monomers. Ethylene is made of gas and petroleum and this can be harmful to an individual health. This chemical sometimes mix with foods substances and when this is consumed is brings about lung diseases and other digestive organs. Some of these plastic bags are really small and tends to fit into the human mouth. Children sometimes swallow these rubbers and this sometimes gets stuck in the throat and they find it difficult to breathe and it sometimes causes death.

Moreover, due to the carelessness of people, some animals mistaken plastic bags as food and swallow it, this leads to their death. When water bodies are polluted by plastic waste some living organisms in the water find it difficult to live. Some of these water bodies get choked up and this prevents animals from having free movements and also they find the place very uncomfortable to breed in.

In conclusion, problems caused by due to the plastic bags have been misjudged and overlooked by the government. Every country with its citizens should make efforts to lessen the use of plastic bags nevertheless they should be banned.

UGCD-181

Plastic bags are a major cause of the depletion of man's ecosystem. Plastic as a substance is a non-biodegradable and thus harmful to human health. Plastic bags emit some radiation and also prove to be a choke hazard for small animals and people. It is essential to ban plastic bags because they cause several different types of harm to our health, but the most four troubling problems they cause include, pollution of land and water bodies, wildlife harm, harm to human health and difficulty in recycling. Plastic bags are doing more harm than good and hence, they must be banned. The following paragraphs contain the details of why plastic bags must be banned.

To begin, the difficulties in recycling plastic bags is one of the most reasons why they must be banned. As plastic bags get caught in recycling machinery, most recycling facilities do not accept them. Since plastic bags recycling requires a specialized equipment that can break down the plastic and mold it into a new product, most municipalities do not have the budget to include their recycling in their waste management programs. An additional problem with plastic grocery bags recycling is their cleanliness. Ideally, to be suitable for recycling, bags need to be clean to be accepted, which is often a problem, considering that we use them to carry groceries and potentially leaky goods.

Additionally, the pollution of land and water bodies is also a major reason why plastic bags must be banned. Plastic bags are usually lightweight hence, they can travel long distances by either water through drains or wind. The wind blows the plastic bags and trashes over or across a wide area or distance which may get caught up in between trees, fence and eventually float on water bodies thus moving to the world's oceans. Plastic bags could also cause infertility of the soil which in tend to affect the growth of crops thereby leading to shortage of food to support human and animal lives.

Furthermore, plastic bags must be banned because of their harm to human health. It is believed that these plastic bags contain chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyl and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons which are hormone disrupting. Once marine animals consume these chemicals as a result of water pollution, they move through the food web and later get into human and other living creatures which may put their life in danger. All these chemicals when consumed by humans, may cause cancerous diseases or any other serious diseases.

Again, plastic bags also cause harm to wildlife and because of that, they must be banned. Most animals both terrestrial and aquatic eat plastic bags and suffer from serious health problems.



Animals that swallow plastic often suffer from intestinal obstruction, which typically leads to a long, slow and painful death.

To conclude, though plastic bags are convenient to use but they are also a big threat to all lives on earth both animals (including humans) and plants and so it is high time we found a way of treating them in order not to cause more deterioration of lives.

UGCD-182

Plastic bags are major cause of environmental pollution. Plastic as a substance is non-biodegradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. It has become very essential to ban plastics before they ruin our planet completely. Many countries around the globe have either put a ban on the plastic bag or Levi tax on it. However, the pollution hasn't been solved completely because the implementation of these measures hasn't been as successful.

The usage of plastic bags is doing us more harm than good and the reasons are as follows. Deterioration of the environment is a problem caused by plastic bags. They are destroying nature due to their harmful effect. Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. Most people dump waste plastic bags onto the land which does not decompose easily. The waste plastic bags entering into the water bodies are a major cause of water pollution. Hence, we can conclude that these are deteriorating our environment in every possible way.

Moreover, plastic bags are non-biodegradable and make our land infertile. Chemicals released by waste plastic bags enter the soil and make it infertile. Disposing of the plastics is the biggest challenge. Plastics do decompose, though not fully, over a long period of time, on average 100 to 500 years according to research. Commercially available plastics; polyolefin such as polyethylene and polypropylene have been further made resistant to decomposition by means of additional stabilisers such as antioxidant. Therefore, soil micro-organisms that decompose things such as wood and plastics.

They are harmful for animals and marine creatures. Plastic bags have become a threat to the life of animals living on earth as well as in water. Animals and marine creatures unknowingly consume

plastic particles along with their food. Research shows that waste plastic bags have been a major reason for untimely animal deaths.

Furthermore, plastic bags cause illness in humans. They are having a negative impact on human health. The production of plastic bags releases toxic chemicals. These are the main cause of serious illness. Plastic bags contain many chemical and hazardous substances such as Bisphenol A(BPA), thalates, antinitroxide, brominated flame retardants and poly-fluorinated chemicals which are serious risk factor for human health and the environment. Different human health problems like irritation in the eye, vision failure, breathing difficulties, respiratory problems, cancers, liver dysfunction, skin diseases, lung problems, headache, dizziness, birth effect, cardiovascular, genotoxic and gastrointestinal. Plastic bags occur serious environmental pollution such as soil pollution, water pollution and air pollution. The polluted environment is a major reason for various diseases which are spreading easily in human beings.

In addition, plastic bags lead to drainage problem. Thus, clogged sewage. Waste plastic bags are the main reason for trapping the drains and sewers especially during rains. Plastic bags dumped into water bodies and gutters can choke the water path. This can result in a flood-like situations and disrupt the normal life of people.

In conclusion, although plastic is becoming a big threat for all of us, still this problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people do not look at the long term effect of these small easy to carry bags they use in their everyday life. Besides all of these people keep using plastic bags due to their conveniences. But now everyone has to completely stop using the plastic bag to save our environment and earth.

UGCD-183

Plastic bags, one of the commonly used handy products used in our world today. It is commonly known as poly bag, pouch or grocery bag. Plastic bag is made from either a natural or synthetic source thus referred to as a semi-synthetic organic substance. Plastic bags have spared us the hustle and bustle of carrying our huge goods unassembled; it has made an available way of carrying all our goods in a more simple way. Though, very cheap and easy to use it has caused more harm than good to our planet in these recent times. For the short time plastics have been in existence, they have affected humans in enormous ways. Some people and countries have been in support of its continuous usage, they must be refuted as they are counter arguments against the harm of plastic bags and its usage to the human populace. The realities about the effects of

plastics on our world must be taken into close consideration thereby, plastic bags banned with immediate effect.

One of the most critical effects that plastic bags have posed is environmental pollution and degradation. We happen to see plastic bags in the arms of almost everyone we meet in shops or market places day in and day out and this has really made the carrying and transfer of luggage very easy. The most common place where you can find plastic bags is the market and this happens to be one of the filthiest places in our environs. Not only does plastic bags cause the amassing of filth, plastics have enormously affected the quality of our land due to the non degradable nature of plastics(cannot be broken down into its primary constituents). Although plastics have been in existence for just one generation, is their presence worth it? The accumulation of plastic bags have caused a blockage where ever they are found be it in drainage pipes, water bodies, or in the land, their presence has been a major cause of waste in our surroundings thus a factor of environmental pollution. In the quest to burn plastic bags, they emit harmful radiations into the atmosphere thus exposing our environment to different forms of pollution. This has affected plant growth and caused harm to the terrestrial habitat especially in our landfills. Therefore the more we use plastic bags the more we expose our environment to increased damage and pollution.

Another reason why plastic bags have been a nuisance is that they have been a threat to human and animal life. The essential role that is played by plastic bag in the packaging of products from the aquatics and the pleasure that plastic bags serve to little children when they are compressed into toys and learning tools has been a plus to the use of plastic bags. As per Marrickville Council of Australia, as many as 100,000 sea creatures including whales, turtles, fishes and sea birds die every year mainly because of the presence of plastic bags in their habitat. They tend to resemble food when they gaze on them. Rather than ingesting on algae (sea weed) they rather go for the plastics because of the fact that plastics serve as a breeding ground for algae. After ingestion, the plastic bag blocks their guts which lead to premature death. Once animal body decays and reenters the environment, they pose more potential problems. The plastic bags we see in aquatic habitat which is affecting marine life is as a result of plastic bags that were not disposed properly and managed to find their way into the ocean. Not only have plastic bags affected marine life, human lives have been affected as well. Children and infants without proper supervision by adults have been suffocated where these plastic bags choke the nostrils and mouths of young children in the tendency to use them as playing tools leading to premature death. Plastic bags have been a major threat to human and animal life and thus must be banned.

Finally, the non renewability of petroleum has brought a host of issues due to their inability to be recycled thus plastic bags must be banned. Petroleum which is the compound where plastic bags are being manufactured from are non renewable (takes a very long time to form) it can be used to manufacture pomades, kerosene and source of energy for fueling our machines and engines. The ocean depths where fossils(dead decaying matter) is found is diminishing in the few years after the rampant use of plastic bags. This has affected and been a threat to the natural resources of the countries where these products are obtained. The extraction of these products is reducing the quality the non renewable petroleum we have. An oceans floor where petroleum is found is

facing a major depletion in the quality of the natural resources. The source of plastic bags are non renewable and cannot be recycled therefore, Plastic bags must be banned so that the high demand of petroleum will be lightened and our natural resources can be conserved.

To sum up, our world continues to revolve around innovations and thus the upgrading of products must be a priority. The manufacturing of safe, reusable and recyclable products must be properly exploited. Plastics though has made domestic activities very easy, these bags are causing more harm than good to nature. With all these effects posed on human, animals and our environment, there is no iota of doubt in banning plastic bags to avoid more exposure in the years to come.

#### UGCD-184

The urbanization, technical revolution and the ease of every process have led to the usage of plastic in such a way that plastic bags have become an inevitable component in our day to day lives. Plastic bags have become a very common commodity that they are given for free during purchases at shops or markets. But instead of making our lives easy, these plastic bags have caused various issues like wild and marine life loss, infertility of the soil, illness in humans, pollution of the environment, climate change.

Wild and marine life loss are one of the reasons why plastic bags should be banned. Plastic bags have Impact on land and water. The pollution of ocean water by the plastics has a drastic impact on the food web. All the aquatic animals and plants unknowingly consume plastic fragments along with their foods which causes their untimely deaths. Animals such as cows, goats and others consume used plastic bags that are thrown up on the roads since they think it as eatables. This can result in the animals choking up, illness and death eventually in other cases.

A second reason why plastic should be banned is because it is non-biodegradable. Because plastics are non-biodegradable they do not decompose easily and takes almost five hundred years for degradation which makes our fertile agricultural land highly infertile by occupying the underground and avoiding the uptake minerals by the plants. If we look forward to burning plastic bags, they emit toxic gases such as hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide and others into the atmosphere, which when inhaled causes severe health problems.

Thirdly, it causes illness in humans. Plastic bags have harmful effects that are related to how they are used. Using plastics to heat food in a microwave causes the release of toxins to the food in it, which upon consumption causes diseases like cancer, asthma and ulcers. The production of plastic bags also releases toxic chemicals into the environment also causing diseases.

Moreover, plastic bags also pollute the environment. Plastic bags pollute both land and water. They are usually lightweight and can be carried anywhere without much effort. Being lightweight makes them getting carried away easily by the wind as well as water which causes blockage of water ways that leads to flood. While getting carried away with the wind, they sometimes get stuck up in fences and litter our environment.

Lastly, they contribute to climate change. All the polymers and compounds such as polypropylene and Polyethylene used in the creation of plastic bags are derived from petroleum and natural gas. The process of extracting fossil fuel and then processing it to produce plastics releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This has also resulted to the degradation of the ozone layer, which has subsequently led to global warming.

It is clear that the use of plastic bags poses serious threats to us and the environment. Hence, it should be banned.

#### UGCD-185

A major cause of environmental pollution is improper management of plastic waste. Plastic bags began as a convenient and a common way of packaging and transporting goods such as foods and magazines, but ended up as deadly waste in landfills and water bodies. In general, human lives are satisfied as plastics bags serves as means of conveying merchandise from one place to another yet its improper handling can be very harmful to lives and has to be banned. Plastic bags are made of chemicals that can be very harmful to the environment and human lives when improperly handled and has to be banned.

One reason why plastic bag should be banned is its tendency to resist biodegradation. According to the review article of biodegradation of polytene based on the microbial approach of Manisha Sangale, Mohd Shahnawaz and Avinash Ade at the department of Botany in the University of Pune, India, “research has proven that plastic bags are made of polytene which may take over 1000 years for natural degradation in the environment”. Plastics bags being deposited in the soil for very long may affect the proper functioning of soil nutrients as a result of the effects of toxic substances in them.

In addition to its resistance of biodegradation, plastic bags should be banned because they pollute water bodies and causes flood when improperly disposed. Few urban areas and affluent neighborhoods are the only set of places which may experience little or no effects of improper disposition of plastic bags due to the disciplined and proper management of waste in those areas unlike some rural areas and slum settlements with poor drainage systems where such measures to proper waste managements are not seriously taken into action. In these areas, a lot of plastic bags are dumped into gutters and water channels. Plastic bags end up choking gutters and causes flood after heavy downpour. Some of these wastes are carried into rivers and lakes which in turn pollute our water bodies. Since plastics bags are not recycled to produce new materials, they should be banned.

Furthermore, plastic bags should be banned because they cause air pollution when burnt. This as a result depletes the ozone as a long-term effect and also causes respiratory infection to people who inhale harmful gases from the smoke. People understand that, plastic bags causes many of environmental degradations such as water pollution. They consider burning plastic bags as a good idea so as to prevent this form of pollutions but, unconsciously, they deplete the ozone and

cause other health problems. To prevent ourselves and the environment, plastic bags should be banned since its management is not at its very best.

In conclusion, plastic bags play major roles in merchandising and packaging of goods but in the other hand are very harmful to lives and the environment at large when improperly managed. To save human and to preserve animal lives, plastic bags should be banned.

UGCD-186

Plastic bags are convenient way to carry our purchased goods when we go shopping. They are durable than paper bags and they are easy to carry. They are being discarded after using them but do you know what happens to them after discarding them? They may be recycled, but apart from that there is nothing they can do about them again and they are left in the environment causing harm to it . Plastic bags should therefore be banned due to the negative impact it is having on our environment.

Pollution of the environment is one reason why plastic bags should be banned. Despite being very beneficial when it comes to packaging of purchased goods and storing of items, the use of plastic bags also comes with some disadvantages. Most people after using the plastic bags do not dispose them off properly but leaves them around and because they are light in weight ,they are easily carried by the wind and travel long distances to pollute other areas. They sometimes get caught up in between fences , trees and on water bodies making the environment look dirty affecting the beauty of the environment. One major problem of plastic bags on the environment is that they are non-bio-degradable which means they do not decompose easily. They keep piling up ,choking gutters and blocking water ways which may create odour in the environment and also lead to flooding.

Another reason why plastic bags should be banned is that they are harmful to aquatic lives .The indiscriminate disposal of plastic bags has not only affected our environment but has endangered aquatic lives . Most of our waste materials when collected are dumped into the oceans. Wildlife and marine life such as the sea turtle and the fishes become endangered as they mistake these plastic bags for food and end up consuming them. The plastic consume may congest the digestive tract of these animals and may cause them to suffocate or die since their system cannot digest them.

Plastic bags are harmful to human health. Apart from the benefits humans derive from plastic bags such as easy transportation of purchased, it also has its negative impacts on their health. When the rubbers gets accumulated, they end up choking gutters and blocking drainage systems which may cause the water to be stagnant. This may also lead to the breeding of mosquitoes which are dangerous to human health. In addition, these plastic bags contains toxic chemicals and sometimes people buy and eat their meals hot in these plastic bags and when the toxic gets into their body, it may lead to health issues such as the development of cancer and even ulcers in the body.

In conclusion, plastic bags have caused more harm than good to our environment as stated in the above points. Furthermore , paper bags may be used in place of the plastic bags. It is therefore ,necessary to ban the use of the plastic bags to protect the environment, the health of humans and also the aquatic lives to make our planet a better place for all.

UGCD-187

Plastic bags are one of the materials which come in very handy for the services they provide. It is rather unfortunate that, the cons in the usage of plastic bags outweigh the pros and arguments against its usage claim they should be banned. Plastic bags should be banned because of its adverse effects on the biological environment.

First of all, plastic bags cause pollution to the lithosphere. According to research, about only 1-3% of plastic bags produced annually are recycled after use. The remaining percentage are used domestically or otherwise dumped on the streets which is typical in some parts of Africa. It is known that, plastic bags do not decompose early and can take up to 500 years or more even before photo-degradation takes place. The indiscriminate disposal of plastic bags into drainage systems chokes them if not distilled regularly and upon further compilation, water in the drains become stagnant which forms good breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Also, flooding is easy to occur as the rains do not get the right mediums to flow through when they come down due to pollution by plastic bags.

Furthermore, plastic factories emit harmful chemicals during production. Polyvinyl chloride used during the manufacture of plastic bags has been found to be very toxic throughout all its process in the factory, whether inhaled, ingested or upon skin contact. Workers at these factories are at risks as well as individuals living in its environs. Under normal circumstances, these factories should be cited away from the communities but due to increasing population, acquisition of land is cumbersome. Chemicals from plastic factories do not only affect human life, but plants and animals as well. As the chemicals go up into the atmosphere, it is mixed with rain and falls as acid rain. This rain falls on plants, seeps into the soil and finds its way into water bodies consumed by animals and humans.

Finally, plastic bags cause pollution to the hydrosphere and its surroundings. Plastic bags dropped in water bodies are either carried to other areas, find a way of sinking or are brought back to the shore by wind or by the water. Those that go to other locations have their impacts there, the ones that sink are most likely to be mistaken by aquatic animals as food and thus consumed. As a matter of fact, studies have shown that the cause of untimely deaths of some aquatic animals have been traced to the presence of chemicals found in plastic bags. The plastic bags brought back to the shore affect the land by the chemicals released into it. These chemicals retard the growth of plants along the shore, and in extreme cases render the soil infertile.

In conclusion, plastic bags should be banned because, they pollute the lithosphere by choking drainage systems and causing flooding, chemicals used and released during the production of plastic bags are harmful to all biological entities, and they pollute aquatic bodies, its organisms and surroundings.

## UGCD-188

Plastic bags are very significant commodity in our day to day activities as they provide us with solutions that make carrying foodstuffs, liquids and other items very easy and potable. Due to this, plastic bags have become part of our everyday life making them a very common commodity that are inevitable in our societies, they are given at shops, supermarkets, food joints and many other places sometimes for free to make handling and carrying a convenient one. Despite all this benefits that comes with plastic bags, today plastic bags has become a harm to the environment being the root cause to various issues to environment such as blocking of sewage system, losing the soils fertility and causing harm to wildlife.

To start, one important reason why plastic bags should be banned is they block sewage system. Plastic bags can be found everywhere nowadays, this is because users of these plastic bags dump them anyhow, and they don't find any proper ways to dispose them off. With continuous dumping of these plastics waste without any proper recycling the plastic bags now form clumps with other materials they come into contact with and block our drainage systems. This prevent the flow of water from passing their right channels, they now divert their ways causing floods. Also, there is other inconvenience that comes about such as flooding of roadways which prevents the free movement of vehicles. These activities of plastic bags blocking sewage system have led to loss of lives, destruction of properties, collapsing of buildings and many others.



In addition , plastic bags have destroyed our rich soil fertility. When plastic bags are thrown on the land without recycling them, they turn to make the soil less fertile. This because plastic bags do not dissolve in the soil, they can stay in the soil for so many years destroying the soil. They seize the infiltration of water into the soil. Also plastic bags contain toxic chemicals which kills living organism in the soil, these chemicals released by the plastic seep deep down into groundwater and other water sources causing water pollution.

Lastly, another important reason for the need to banned plastic bags is that they cause harm to wildlife. Day in and day out plastics has led to the loss of thousands of animals' life both in the sea and on land. For example sheavly and Alder (2009) in their research work pointed out those plastic bags can do harm or kill flora and fauna that eat or become entangled in them. Plastic bags cannot be digested by animals when they mistakenly take them, all this plastics stay in their gut aiding their slow death. Also huge numbers of sheep and cows have died as a result of chewing these plastics when grazing.

In conclusion, plastic bags are a very significant environmental concern in our daily activities, but as humans in the environment we have to carefully examine the effect that comes with them just to mention few blocking our sewage, losing the soils fertility and causing harm to wildlife to implement policy that will banned or help control the use of plastic bags.

#### UGCD-189

Plastics are known to be light, strong chemicals that are used in making objects such as cups, bags, and others. Plastics have been incorporated in our daily lives. For instance, the use of plastic bags has become a culture in our society, whether it is being used as a lunch sack or for packaging food items. We can identify that plastic bags, especially, have been accustomed to our convenience over the years. However useful these may be, they have grave effects on our environment and health. Some advocates have raised concern on why plastic bags should or should not be banned, therefore, I would like to discuss on the topic. "Plastic bags should be banned."

To begin, one reason people believe they should be banned is because plastic bags suffocate and kill living organisms. Children, especially, have fallen victim to this. When plastic bags get over the faces of the children, they create an air tight barrier which prevents intake of oxygen hereby causing suffocation and leading to death. According to familyeducation.com, each year, an average of 20 children die each year from plastic bag suffocation. Plastic bags also prove to be a choke hazard for small animals as well, especially aquatic creatures. It takes from 20 to 1000

years for plastic bags to decompose into tinier pieces which cause even more harm. When plastic bags are disposed in the oceans, they disrupt its aquatic nature, and the fishes die. Plastic bags have increased the death rate in our society.

Furthermore, plastic bags have contributed largely to environmental degradation. The throwing about of polythene bags could make the fertile grounds infertile, hence, disrupting plant growth which hinders food production for both humans and animals. Also, burning plastics emits some harmful gases into the atmosphere which contributes to the spread of some lung diseases like asthma. However, these gases also slowly wear away the ozone layer; the layer that protects us from the ultraviolet rays of the sun. They also choke the drainage system, thus, promoting flood.

Despite the demerits, people have also argued that plastic bags have a good impact on society and should not be banned. It cannot be denied that plastic bags are a convenient and safe packaging option for businesses and consumers. It is easy to print your business's name and add information on the plastic bags. In addition to this, plastic bags are known to be durable and less vulnerable to tearing and are also very resistant to chemicals. They also tend to protect the contents from water or decay. These qualities they possess are highly valued during usage.

In conclusion, it is obvious that plastic bags have been a negative impact mainly on our environment and health. You will also notice that the danger plastic bags have on our society far outweigh their importance I believe that plastic bags need to be banned to ensure human, animal and plant survival. I would suggest that paper bags are rather used because they are manufactured from natural sources such as trees, and are biodegradable.

#### UGCD-190

Plastic is a type of container made of thin flexible plastic film. Plastic bags were invented to save the planet as trees were being chopped down to produce paper bags in the early years of 1959. While durable and energy-efficient in production, plastic bags deteriorate our environment, destroying the ecosystem because it causes a lot of land and water pollution, causing an untimely death of many animals, which in turn causes air pollution and poses negative impacts on human health.

Plastic bags deteriorate our environment, destroying the ecosystem because it causes a lot of land and water pollution. Plastic bags are difficult to recycle or breakdown and usually end up on the surface of water bodies and in the soil. This causes a large mass of pollution since they are non- biodegradable hence, making it a challenge to completely dispose of.

Additionally, it causes an untimely death of so many animals, which in turn causes air pollution. Larger pieces of plastic satisfy the hunger of creatures, as these plastic bags usually find their way around their food, making them eat less and very weak as a result. The plastic

bags then blocks their gastrointestinal tract, making the plastic not eligible for excretion. This then causes great damage to their system and untimely death in most cases, not forgetting air pollution as the animal, especially those on land decompose.

Finally, plastic bags poses a negative impact on human health. Though plastic bags are good for branding and promoting the businesses of humans, it causes great harm to them as well. The plastic bags when being produced release a lot of toxic chemicals such as benzene and vinyl hydrochloride into the atmosphere, which are known to causes cancer, and other chemicals which makes the soil infertile. These same plastic bags then clogs drains and sewers, especially during the rains. This causes floods, turns the flooded drains and sewers into breeding places for dangerous insects such as the female anopheles mosquitoes, which are famous for their transmission of the malaria parasites, which then develops into malaria in the system of humans through a single bite.

Thus, while plastics are durable and energy-efficient in production, plastic bags should be banned. This is because, it deteriorates our environment destroying our ecosystem, causes a lot of land and water pollution, also causes an untimely death of so many animals which in turn causes air pollution, and finally poses a negative impact on the health of humans. Banning plastics is going to preserve the lives of both humans and animals, and make our environment free of non- biodegradable wastes.

#### UGCD-191

The use of plastic bags have become a normality in our daily activities. Plastic bags are simply non-bio-degradable synthetic materials in the form of bags which are used for many beneficial things such as holding and carrying items from one place to another. As essential as they are in our daily routines, they come along with many demerits. The following paragraphs highlight the reasons why plastic bags should be banned.

To begin, plastic bags pose as a serious hazard to the lives of humans and even animals (aquatic organisms) when they turn into waste. As mentioned earlier, plastic bags are non-biodegradable and therefore they are able to stay around for up to a century as per the studies by scientists. These plastic bags tend to accumulate on the surface of the Earth in the form of waste due to improper handling. When this happens, they end up choking gutters and moving into water bodies. These choked gutters cause over-flooding due to poor drainage system and may further lead to loss of lives and property. Some also move into water bodies and end up destroying homes of aquatic organisms. In the long run, they pose a threat to lives and property.

Secondly, the cost of recycling them is very high and this has become a major challenge to governments around the world. A very good example is the government of Ghana which is not able to meet up with the financial demands of the recycling sector. As a result, we do not have

adequate machinery to run the recycling sector and this has led to many non-degradable plastic bags turning into waste which in the long run become very difficult to deal with. This is because they become useless when they are not recycled for further use. This shows that banning them will reduce a great deal of cost.

Also, when we do not handle these plastic bags very well and dispose them improperly, they tend to pollute the environment and affect good sanitation. The korle lagoon is a very good example of environmental pollution. Due to the improper disposal of plastic bags, they've turned into waste which has accumulated greatly over a period of time. This in turns damages fertile lands and renders them useless for beneficial purposes such as farming. Then again accumulation of these plastic bags in water bodies pollutes the water bodies and makes the use of these water bodies for human purposes such as drinking unsafe.

In conclusion, I believe that the reasons stated above tells us how dangerous plastic bags can be especially when they are not handled properly. In view of this, I suggest that plastic bags be banned and people should rather opt for the use of paper bags which are degradable and more convenient in terms of usage as compared to the plastic bags.

## UGCD-192

Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily life. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastic possess the lion's share. If we merely take a look around us, we can find umpteen items which have plastics content it. Being cheap and easy to carry, it has managed into every household. Despite being aware of the health hazards caused by plastics, people continue to use it on a regular basis.

Plastics bags have huge impact on land and water. The pollution of ocean water by the plastics has a drastic impact on the food web. All the aquatic animals and plants take into their systems plastic fragment which is in the ocean. Humans consume the sea foods and take it to themselves in a harmful way. Sharks and Wales are washed to the shores dead as they gobble these plastic bags considering it as Zoo planktons. Also, the deposition of plastic waste hinders the tree flow of rainwater there by reducing the ground water.

It is no wonder that plastics would affect the living things on this planet. Every plastic bag which looks enticing, emulates different toxic elements, making the food product harmful. Sometimes these turn out to be carcinogenic as well. Researchers have discovered that the plastics minuscule entering the food packets are true. Used plastics bags are thrown up on the roads are consumed by many animals such as cows, goats since they think it as eatables. This can

result in the animals choking up and prove to be fatal. In other cases, it gets accumulated in the animal's body inducing illness and death eventually.

Plastics live forever. All of the plastics bags and plastics which was ever produced from the beginning of time (i.e. approximately from 1960's) still live in some from this planet. Out of the total plastic waste only 18% is recycled. The rest are found clogging the drains, polluting the soil, land and water. Plastic is invincible, it doesn't allow decay and it doesn't decay. Every time a person throws away a straw or disposes a water bottle after drinking a billion kilograms of it just gets accumulated. Plastics when burnt give out very harmful gases such as hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, dioxins, furans and heavy metals, as well as particulates. There is no such thing as you can destroy plastic bags but it prevent it from usage would be one of the best options.

Every government and its citizens should make conscious efforts to mitigate the usage of plastic bags and the impact of it. We need to create a viable environment for the upcoming generation and banning plastic bag is one of the ways forward.

#### UGCD-193

Every day you come across different types of plastic in your lives, be it lunch boxes, bottles or even commonly plastics bags. But do you know how a plastic bag is made and what happens to it once you discard it in waste. Plastics have become part and parcel of our daily lives. From a tiny pen to huge containers, plastics possess the lion's share. Plastic as a substance is non-bio gradable and thus plastic bags remain in the environment for hundreds of years polluting it immensely. However, the problem hasn't been solved completely because the implementation of these measures hasn't been as successful.

Plastic bags have caused a lot of problems, some of which are deterioration of environment. Plastic bags are destroying nature due to their harmful effect. Plastic bags have become the main cause of land pollution today. The plastic bags entering into the water bodies are a major cause of water pollution. Hence, we can conclude that these are deteriorating our environment in every possible way. Plastic bags have also had a negative effect on our animals and marine creatures. This is because they unknowingly consume plastic particles along with their food. Research shows that waste plastic bags have been a major reason for untimely animal deaths. Plastic bags are also the main reason for trapping the drains and sewers, especially during rains. This can result in a flood-like situation and disrupt the normal life of people. There are numerous reasons why the government of various countries has come up with strict measures to limit the use of plastic bags are polluting the land and water immensely making it unsafe to drink and use for other purposes. Also, plastic bags have become a threat to the life of animals living on earth as well as in the waters. Chemicals released by waste plastic bags enter the soil and make it infertile. It also has a negative impact on human health. Although some government has imposed a ban on the usage of plastic bags in many states. But people are still carrying these bags. Shopkeepers stop providing plastic bags. In this way, we can support the government in the campaign. Some contributions that can be made by people are, reusing the waste (plastic bags), that is we can reuse the plastic many times before throwing it out and also seek alternatives.

Although plastic is becoming a big threat for all of us, still this problem has often been overlooked and underestimated. This is because people do not look at the long-term effect of these small, easy to carry bags they use in their everyday life. Besides all of these people keep using bags due to their convenience. But now everyone has to completely stop using the plastic bags to save our environment and earth.

#### UGCD-194

Since time immemorial, mankind has tried to adapt to their environment by producing certain tools and materials to aid them. From the creation of sparks by banging flint stones together which then generates into fire in the Stone Age era to the production of a match in the nineteenth century all were genius inventions of man to help make living easier and more comforting. One key invention of mankind was the production of plastic bags. Plastic bags use in our daily activities are inevitable. They are used for containing and transporting goods such as foodstuffs, foods chemicals and water. In as much as there are good uses of plastic bags, it tends to have many more negative effects on the biosphere hence its use should be banned.

Plastic bags are non- biodegradable. Studies have shown in the past that, plastic materials unlike other materials cannot decompose and the only better way to make use of plastic bags are to recycle them. Since, they cannot decompose and only a handful are recycled it tends to produce piles of refuse which will only remain in this world forever. Vivid examples are seen when one goes to dumpsite anywhere across the globe, they will realize that almost ninety percent (90%) of these dumpsites are made up of plastic bags that cannot decay. Hence if plastic bag are not banned, with time, will engulf if not all the whole surface, most part of the earth and make it difficult for man to live here.

Plastic bags suffocates and kills many animals. The animals as we all know are part of the physical environment. Many animals, either terrestrial or aquatic endanger their lives when they eat plastic bags. These animals either die or have serious health related problems after eating plastics bags coffered around .Example, cows grazing on the ground end up consuming plastic bags as part of their feed which most at times leads to the death of a significant amount of them. This has been a big problem in India, where plastic bags threatening lives of cows is highly seen. Also, in aquatic habitats, fishes are trapped in plastic bags which one way or another find their way into our water bodies in such cases injuring these fishes or even suffocating them to their deaths.

Plastic bags destroy the environment. Over time, their light weight allows them to be carried away to long distances, causing environmental havoc along the way. "Exactly what happens to a plastic bag when it is littered depend very much on where it enters the environment and the mechanisms that causes it to travel ",said Patrick Chandler, Education consultant for The Washed Ashore project. "On a rainy day in Portland, the bag could be washed into a drainage pipe that would lead it to the Columbia River and into the ocean. On a windy day in Arizona , the bag might get stuck on a cactus where it is held until it photo-degrade". But no matter what where a bag ends up, Mr. Chandler explains that it can cause long term harm to the surrounding

ecosystem, "The bag will exist in the environment for years because plastic doesn't degrade. Exactly how many years and how that plays out again depends on where it starts and where it ends up".

Irrespective of helpful uses, it is also a great threat to the environment and if banned sooner than later would help tremendously in preserving mother nature.

## UGCD-195

I have been following with keen interest recent articles in the dailies on plastic bag pollution and its menace to the society. My worries heighten upon the observation that, a plastic bag which is a type of solid waste and hence occupies space is indiscriminately disposed and there is an urgent need to address this cankerworm which has eaten into the fabrics of our society .

The effects of plastic bags usage are not difficult to trace. This social menace depletes our natural resources. The resource extraction and the raw materials used in the manufacturing of plastic bags go through a process known as film extrusion. These plastic bags are generally made from polythene , which is a petroleum derived polymer consisting of synthetic substance produced from natural gas and petroleum. Plastic bags leads to the depletion of these nonrenewable nature resources. According to statistics , it takes 12 millions bars of oil to produce the amount of plastic bags used in U.S per day. You can imagine what it takes to produce all the plastic bags used across the world. Whereas paper bags made from a recycled paper helps in reducing a burden on natural resources and would also put to better use the waste papers produced from multiple other industries worldwide .

In Addition , environmental conservation should be prioritized. Banning plastic bags will definitely reduces its harmful effect on our environment. The ban will regulate the disposal of these plastic bags and preserve our natural resources . Unlike paper bags which are biodegradable , most plastic bags do not breakdown easily. A plastic bag can take up to 1,000 years to decompose and this endangers the safety of people, wildlife and ultimately pollute our environment. Irrespective of how convenient, durable and is used for containing and transporting goods, it also litter our surroundings. Plastic bags is one of the commonest packaging products. Today , you can hardly walk around and not spot people with plastic bags. It is so simple and easy to carry. However, waste plastic bags continue clog our waterways, oceans, forest, and natural habitats. In some places in Accra environs, plastic bags have been dubbed as “natural flowers ” because some can be seen flapping from roads to fence. And those who burn these plastic bags in attempt to eradicate the waste end up polluting the air , making it inconvenient for other. Considering the high demand for plastic bags and its effect on the environment, it's imperative to ban its usage.

Moreover ,the problem of using plastic bags is more serious than it appears. There's a need to ban usage due to its expensive nature of recycling. Plastic bags though useful in many ways go a long way to affect the quality of life of people. For instance, heating food in a microwave causes

diseases like cancer when consumed. Also , plastic bags that end up in water bodies causes deleterious effect to aquatic life due to improper disposal.

Additionally, the police of recycling plastic bags has pathetically failed because people do not adhere to rules due to ignorance of harmful effects . Therefore, there's a need to spread awareness on the ill effect of plastic bags and embrace the 3Rs , namely, Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle to make our environment a better place.

## UGCD-196

There are many retail centers in our world today. And there are many factors that keep such businesses growing. In this business sector where buying and selling is prominent, one of the strategic ways retailers cannot do away with is the choice of package for goods and products. Packaging options could be done in so many ways. One of the most convenient package options is the use of plastic bags.

One advantage of plastic bags is that, it is used for packaging. One thing no out there can deny is the fact that plastic bags are the most convenient and functional package option. This is the most reason why they are used worldwide on large scale functions such as parceling, retailing, shipping, just to mention a few. (Caldwell, 2018). Statistics shows that approximately five hundred billion plastic bags are used every year mostly for shopping. The use of plastic bags is beneficial in many ways for both retailers and their customers. Even at the local level, the food vendors in our various communities and towns tend to make very good use of these plastic bags when it comes to packaging of food. We would all bear to the fact, no customer would like to have their food dished out with no parceling. Vendors who would do that can lose their customers. This can affect the economic standard of the business at the end of the day.

A recent push to reduce the use of plastic bags is based on information concerning negative impacts. One bad aspect of plastic bags is that, it is made of a non- renewable resource. This means they cannot be recycled like paper bags. They can take up to hundred years before they decay completely. This has led to the production of non-biodegradable bags. (Frost 2018). One factor that disrepute our country Ghana is its trouble when it comes to proper disposal of refuse. Plastic bags are flimsy. If they are indisposed properly, they can constitute environmental hazards to human beings and especially, wildlife animals when these plastic bags end up in water bodies. Plastic bags pollute our farmlands and cities. Most plastic bags can clog our roadside drains which may lead to flooding in case of heavy rainfalls.

In a similar manner, most plastic bags are made with polymer and this makes them flammable. They produce toxic fumes when burnt. Consider the fact that, the toxic substances that come out from burnt plastics can cause many heart related diseases when inhaled. An example is lung cancer, whose causes include smoking and exposure to certain toxins(Mayo Clinic et al.).

Plastic bags can be a debating topic due to their benefits but when banned, can cause retailers to find alternative shopping bags.



Plastics have become an essential component in our daily lives. Almost everything in our households consists of plastics, from items as small as spoons to huge water tanks. No doubt plastic is very important in the era we live. But do you know plastics are non-biodegradable, meaning they are not capable of being broken down by the action of living organisms and hence remain in the environment for thousands of years.

Using plastic bags are really convenient for all of us to carry things but plastic bags also cause harm to animals leading to their death. Plastic bags kill many animals including turtles, whales, dolphins, penguins and so on. These animals ingest plastic bags in the sea as they mistaken these plastic bags for food. For example, sea turtles mistaken floating plastic bags for jelly fish and ingest them. Plastic on the other hand cannot be digested and hence accumulate in the stomachs of these animals leading to their slow and painful death.

Plastic bags are polluting land, water and our air immensely. Chemicals released by waste plastic bags enter into the soil and make it infertile. These plastic bags make our lands infertile by pilling up underground and causing difficulty in the uptake of nutrients by plants. In times of rain these plastic bags are washed into water bodies causing water pollution. Also, the burning of plastic bags emit toxic gases into the atmosphere causing it to be polluted.

The use of plastic bags by humans have caused many health problems. These include Cancers diabetes, vision failure, breathing difficulties, headache, dizziness and for pregnant women, such impacts on a developing fetus have been shown to increase the likelihood of birth defects of the brain, heart, and even spine. Then again dumping grounds of plastic bags become breeding grounds for organisms such as mosquitos ; a source of a deadly disease called malaria.

The improper disposal of plastic bags have caused the clogging of drains and waterways. Drainage systems clogged by plastic wastes is a major cause of flooding in most developing countries today. These floods create breeding grounds for water borne diseases, destroy homes and properties and the loss of lives as well.

In order to reduce environmental pollution, protect wildlife, eradicate flooding and reduce certain health risks the best approach is banning the use of plastic bags.





