PLASTIC POLLUTION:

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| AS A READER... | AS A WRITER... |
| Watermelon-topic: The plastic waste in our oceans and in our society | The story begins with a fascinating quote and a comparison to help the reader understand the seriousness of the issue. |
| Angle: Helpful tips to help us reduce the amounts of plastic waste. | The headline and sub headings provides insight into what the article is mostly about |
| All over our planet, there is approximately four million tons of trash produced each day--which is enough to fill ten Empire State Empire State Buildings. More than ten percent of that is plastic waste which results in harming wildlife and their environment. There are simple things we can do to reduce this waste. | The article uses a lot of second person narrative. It is effective because it creates a call for action to the reader which is engaging and gets the reader to want to do something to help. |
| Wow, I didn’t know about those microbeads in some products like toothpaste and other products. They’re so toxic to the environment. | It includes specific facts. It’s obvious that the writer did his or her research. For example,”...Around the world, people throw away roughly four million tons of trash every day—that's enough to fill 350,000 garbage trucks or 10 Empire State Buildings. About 12.8 percent of that waste is plastic... |
| Using something like a straw can end up in the nostrils of a sea creature. | It poses questions to the reader. |
| Plastic can cause great harm and even death to wildlife. | Topic sentence is followed by a specific fact, “Around the world, people throw away roughly four million tons of trash every day—that's enough to fill 350,000 garbage trucks or 10 Empire State Buildings. About 12.8 percent of that waste is plastic…” |
| Only one of six recyclable water bottles end up getting recycled. Wow, so much waste and destruction of our planet!!! |  |

My plan: I will make sure that I include quotations that support my thesis.

A headline that provides insight into the angle of my piece.

Specific facts and details

Quotations to support my thesis

Call for action as engagement

# **Pssssssssssst!**

## **Call Him A Rattler Tattler: Expert Tracker Gives Us The Lowdown On Snakes**

August 01, 1995|By Ellen Macaulay. Special to the Tribune.

Rattlesnakes are the Bart Simpson of the animal world. With their menacing fangs, they're a hot choice for tattoos and biker jackets. But rattlers are more in danger than dangerous. They get no mercy! Often, people simply kill them on sight. All this for a creature that goes out of its way to avoid you and even sounds a warning if you're too close.

Since they don't stick around long enough to give you the lowdown, we'll tell you more about these slick, slithery guys.





Follow that snake

We talked with Dr. Harry Greene, a snake scientist from the University of California, to get the dirt on snakes. Greene's job is basically to spy on rattlers. First, he captures them in plastic tubes and takes them to his lab. Then, he quickly inserts a tiny radio transmitter under their skin. The rattlers are released back into the wild with Greene and his tracking device in hot pursuit, so he can spy on them in their natural surroundings.

You'd think if anyone had been bitten by a rattler, it would be this guy. But, after hundreds of rendez-vous with rattlers, Greene has been bitten once ("not severe"), when he was a teen.

Greene has observed rattlers to be solitary critters. They spend most of their day hiding from the hot sun and their enemies: foxes, kingsnakes, people with sticks. They search for food at night. Come mating time, the males fight over the females, but it is more of a wrestling match than a battle. By the way, never fall for the old rattlesnake-eggs trick. Rattlers don't lay eggs. They give birth to live young.

A few juicy tidbits

Rattlers' digestive systems operate opposite of the way ours do. We swallow our food, and it then digests in our stomach. Rattlesnakes digest first and then swallow. Here's how: The rattler tracks its prey by smelling with its tongue (yes, you read right).It strikes its prey (let's say it's a stinky rat) and bites, releasing powerful venom.

The rat's fading heartbeat circulates digestive enzymes from the snake that essentially break down the rat's innards: muscles, tissue, bones, the works. The rattler can then say "ahhhh" and swallow the squishy rat whole. In this way, rattlesnakes can swallow foods way larger than they are. It would be like you saying, "a 250-pounder with cheese, please" - then chowing down on that massive burger and not getting a gut ache!

These guys bite

Rattlesnake bites hurt like crazy. You swell up and turn a lovely shade of deep purple. But don't worry, there's an antidote.

So, remember, the rattlesnake is a lot like the Grand Canyon. If you just stand back, you can see the beauty - but up close, things could get a little rocky.

THINK YOU'RE HISSSSTORY? TAKE IT FROM A SNAKE:

I'm out here slithering around, basically minding my own biz, in wooded areas. So if you're ever clomping around in my neck of the woods, keep this in mind:

- Wear protective clothing like jeans, socks and shoes.

- Don't put your hands or feet where you can't see them. I sleep in rock or wood piles.

- Get off my back! Don't ever hit me with a stick or rock or step on me. I hate that and I'll fight (bite) back.

- If you do see me or hear my rattle, FREEZE, find exactly where I'm at and take two giant steps back, out of striking range. But I'd rather chomp a gopher!

Rattle. Now, go away, kid. You bother me.