

Earth Day Essay  
April 2024  
Leland and Gray Middle School  
[REDACTED]

Forest Walk  
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Have you ever been on a walk in the forest and see pieces of trash on the ground? This is because many people throw their trash when they don't need it anymore. This is called littering, littering is illegal but many people get away with it because they are not caught while littering. Littering can kill or stunt plant growth. Litter endangers our environment, our wildlife, and our economy.

Littering affects animals in several ways. Researchers estimate that over one million animals die each year after becoming entrapped in or ingesting litter. Litter, especially plastics, can be ingested by animals and become caught in their stomachs. Small animals can also get stuck in things such as plastic bags. Animals can also ingest litter. Animals eating litter can lead to an impaction and irritation or even death.

People need to worry about animals and help fix this problem by not littering and carrying out their littering until they find a proper way to dispose of it.

Sources:

<https://thespartan.org/4271/opinion/littering-the-big-issue-is-we-need-to-clean-up/#:~:text=According%20to%20an%20article%20by%20Guilford%20County%20Nc.gov%2C%20%E2%80%9C,animals%20are%20killed%20from%20litter.>