

Debate: Should Plastic Straws Be Banned?

Summary:

<p>AUTHOR: Trent Hodges Plastic Pollution Manager Surfrider Foundation (environmentalist)</p>	<p>AUTHOR: Scott DeFife V.P. of Government Affairs Plastics Industry Association (representative of the plastic industry)</p>
<p>claim Plastic straws should be banned because the harm they cause outweighs any benefit.</p>	<p>claim Plastic straws have legitimate and important uses, so we shouldn't ban them.</p>
<p>REASON 1: Name one reason the author gives for his claim. The world is facing a crisis of single-use plastic pollution.</p>	<p>REASON 1: Name one reason the author gives for his claim. Straws actually have an important food-safety purpose and are necessary for people with some illnesses or disabilities. And for those living with long-term disabilities, straws can help them live more normal lives and be less dependent on caretakers.</p>
<p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 1. An estimated 5 to 13 million tons of plastic waste, including straws, enter the ocean each year affecting our ecosystems, marine life, and even the water we drink. (statistic) Some studies project that by 2050, there could be more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish if we don't take action now to turn the tide. (research study)</p>	<p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 1. They enable these people—and those recovering from dental surgery—to drink liquids and even to eat soups that can be sipped through a straw. (factual BUT hasty generalization)</p>
<p>REASON 2: Name one reason the author gives for his claim. Plastic doesn't biodegrade. It breaks up into smaller pieces, which means that essentially every piece of plastic ever created still exists in some form.</p>	<p>REASON 2: Name one reason the author gives for his claim. But all of those (alternatives to plastic straws) have drawbacks.</p>
<p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 2. As of 2015, only 9 percent of all the plastic waste generated over the years had been recycled. Most discarded plastic ends up in landfills or in the environment, where it absorbs toxic chemicals, enters the food chain, and harms or kills marine life. (statistic)</p>	<p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 2. Paper is no good for sipping hot drinks. No one should walk around with a metal stick in their mouth. And all reusable straws are difficult to clean thoroughly; they can be a breeding ground for bacteria. (Either/or fallacy)</p>
<p>REASON 3: Name one reason the author gives for his claim.</p>	<p>REASON 3: Name one reason the author gives for his claim.</p>

<p>Plastic straws are one of the top items of plastic pollution found on beaches worldwide.</p>	<p>The primary reason that straw bans are wrong is that they don't address the root cause of the problem, which is litter. Marine debris is a real problem that needs a real solution. But banning plastic straws doesn't stop people from littering or prevent plastic from blowing out of improperly managed landfills. The real solution is to invest more in recycling and properly handling our trash.</p>
<p>Evidence for Reason 3. During International Coastal Cleanup Day in 2018, more than 640,000 plastic straws and stirrers were picked up from beaches across the globe. (statistic)</p>	<p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 3. None</p>
<p>Reason 4 (Plastic)Made primarily from nonrenewable fossil fuels, plastic straws are also difficult to recycle.</p>	
<p>Reason 5 Bans and regulations on consumer items that damage the environment have proven to be an effective way to reduce pollution.</p>	
<p>Evidence for Reason 5 For example, beach cleanup data shows that after California passed a statewide plastic bag ban, significantly fewer plastic bags were found on the beaches and in the environment.</p>	