

Second Place Winner
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A problem with technology today is air quality. Life is easy using air conditioners, refrigerators, and automobiles. But these helpful items can cause large air pollution problems.

Many common household items such as air conditioners, refrigerators, automobiles, etc. produce chemicals that can break down the ozone layer. If the ozone should break down, anyone who goes outside would get sunburn! The chemicals, which the items above produce, are usually contained inside it, but if it should start to leak then the chemicals can escape into the air. The chemicals can affect some people with cases of asthma and they can be hazardous to plants. If a farming region was to have a major accident at a factory or mill, it could cause the plants on the farms to be a little sickly and not produce as much crop.

So far I have talked about the negative affects of air quality. Now I will say a few things on the positive side. Many doctors advise some people with lung problems to go outward the west where there is cleaner air. Places with clean air can help people with health problems and they may actually be able to live longer. As an example, before the Great Flood, the air was clear, and people would live many years longer than they do now. People who are active and live in areas with clean air are much more likely to live longer than those in a polluted area.

The solution for air quality could be difficult for some. There are several ways for anybody to help. Keep your car tuned up. Try not to make unnecessary trips in a car and be careful when working with gasoline and other potentially pollutant chemicals. Pack a lunch for work so you don't have to drive back and forth. Ride a bike whenever you can. Make monthly check-ups on you appliances to make sure they're in good shape. When possible, don't use appliances that could raise pollution.

In areas that already have clean air, do things to help keep it clean. Dispose of dangerous chemicals correctly and recycle when you're able to. By recycling you can help stop pollution. If you use a product again, you keep it from having to be remade, which will lower the cost of a new one and help stop pollution. As I said before, don't use appliances when you don't need to.

Finally, try to make a difference in you own way. Don't do things you know will cause pollution. You could even start a club to help make sure that people's appliances are kept up. Of course most people wouldn't be able to start a club like that, but anybody can help in their own way. But no matter what you do, you can put your effort forth and make a difference.