

# Trash Talk: Introducing Kids to Proper Garbage Sorting!

**Commented [1]:** I changed the name of the title. The more I thought about what we were all talking about the more I realized that it is more about garbage sorting in general than just composting.

Subject:	Prepared By:	Grade:	Date:
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## OVERVIEW

This lesson is designed to get kids to understand the importance of properly sorting their garbage with a special emphasis on separating food waste and turning it into compost. This will be achieved through visual instruction, fun songs, and a hands on garbage sorting activity!

**Commented [2]:** I had a bit of extra time this week, so I started to fill in the lesson plan and all the parts of it. Let me know what you think. I feel like all the requirements are there.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this lesson are as follows: 1) to introduce kids to the idea of sorting their garbage at home and in public and why it is important, 2) to teach kids what to do with special recyclables such as batteries and plastic bags, 3) to inspire the children to start a compost pile/bin at home or in their community, and 4) to encourage kids to set a good example for their friends and family by properly disposing of their waste.

## PSYCHOLOGY

Construal Level Theory- The idea is to get kids to not think of garbage as something that once thrown away, it doesn't exist anymore. The old saying "out of sight, out of mind" tends to ring true. We want kids to understand that just because we have thrown something away doesn't mean that we no longer have responsibility for it. To emphasize this point the students will be doing a garbage sort activity and will be given a handout on how to make compost at home. By bringing it into the home, it will become more real to them.

Self-Awareness Theory- We want students to be conscious of their own habits regarding garbage sorting. If they are educated on why proper garbage sorting is important and how to do it correctly then they will be evaluating their own habits every time they throw something away and hold themselves accountable to their knowledge.

Informational Social Influence- We want this behavior to spread! By teaching the kids to be a good example to others by sorting their waste appropriately we are hoping that it will create a ripple effect in their families and communities. If the kids sort their garbage right then their siblings, parents, and friends are more likely to do so because they will see the behavior as an informational source on what is correct social behavior.

## ACTIVITY

Mini Garbage Sort

Songs to play: "Put it in the Compost" by Michael Ryther; "I Love Trash" by Oscar the Grouch

Break the kids up into groups of 4-5. Set up colorful bins at the front of the room that are clearly labeled for Recycling, Compost, and Garbage. Give each group a small bag of mixed garbage that you collected and approved for cleanliness and safety before class (items should be things the kids see or use often or are easily recognizable). Have the groups come up and sort out their trash at the set up bins. Encourage them to ask questions if they are unsure of what goes where. Be sure to praise correct sorting!

**HOMEWORK**

Handout on how to make a compost bin/pile at home with parental supervision  
 Garbage Sorting Coloring Page

Time	Information Guide	Purpose
1-2 minutes	Introduce the teachers Overview of what we will be talking about Ice breaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who knows Oscar the Grouch?</li> <li>- Why is he a grouch?</li> <li>- How can we make his garbage can less gross?</li> </ul>	Let the kids know who we are and why we are there  To catch students attention into the lesson plan by relating it to a figure they are familiar with.
2-3 minutes	Sorting Recycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why do we recycle? Recycle, Reduce, Reuse</li> <li>- What kinds of things do we put in the recycle bin?</li> <li>- Plastic Bags               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special Recycle locations</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Batteries: short skit on recycling batteries               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mason Jar</li> <li>- Special Recycle locations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To show students what items can be placed in the recycle bin and the benefits of recycling  To teach students that plastic bags and batteries are also a different kind of material that has to be recycled and sorted away from other materials.

**Commented [3]:** I added a section for plastic bags since we are also differentiating batteries from other recyclables. If we find we run too long in practice we can cut this out.

<p>3-4 minutes</p>	<p>Sorting Compostables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is compost? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recycling for “organic” stuff</li> </ul> </li> <li>- How can it be used? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Used as fertilizer to make plants grow big! Has lots of nutrients</li> </ul> </li> <li>- What kind of things go into compost? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food Scraps!</li> </ul> </li> <li>- How to make compost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pile up organic materials</li> <li>- Add a little soil and water to give it a head start</li> <li>- Stir it up a lot!</li> <li>- When it is ready to use it will look like really dark dirt</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Educating students on the importance of compost and keeping food waste out of landfills</p> <p>To teach students how compost can also be used at home and in their community</p> <p>To give students an introduction to how easy it really is to make compost at home and when they can start using it.</p>
<p>1- 1 minute 30 seconds</p>	<p>Sorting trash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What kinds of things do we throw in the garbage?</li> <li>- Why: These things are not recyclable or compostable materials.</li> </ul>	<p>To give students awareness of what items actually do belong in the trash.</p>
<p>5- 7 minutes</p>	<p>Activity: Mini Garbage Sort!</p> <p>Play music in the background for fun!</p> <p>Encourage kids to wash hands or use sanitizer after they are done</p>	<p>By this activity we will be able to determine by what the groups of students have grasped from the lesson plan.</p>

**Commented [4]:** I moved the trash to the end because it is supposed to be everything that does not belong in recycling or compost.

**Commented [5]:** got some bins at the dollar store! They are so cute! But we should probably put them up on a table for better visibility.

<p>3-4 minutes</p>	<p>Introducing the Psychology of the Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Self Awareness Theory: Now that you have this knowledge, you can think about how to properly sort your garbage every day! Do the right thing for the planet!</li> <li>- Informational Social Influence- If you do the right thing, your friends, siblings, and parents are more likely to sort their garbage right too by following your example!</li> <li>- Construal Level Theory- We want you to know that even though you throw something away that you are still responsible for it. By making a compost pile at home we hope you can see this process as being more real than if you sent it to a landfill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Segway into homework handouts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>This section is meant to subtly teach the students that properly sorting their garbage at home can have a big impact not just on the planet, but on the people around them as well. Setting a good example for others is key.</p> <p>This section also introduces the idea of bringing the process of sorting garbage into their homes. It illustrates construal level theory by encouraging the kids to start their own compost pile at home so they can see firsthand what happens to compostable material when properly disposed of and uses for it once it has fully decomposed.</p>
<p>1 minute</p>	<p><b>Assign Homework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “How To Make Compost At Home” Handout</li> <li>- Coloring Handout</li> </ul>	<p>To conclude the lesson with information the kids can take home and share with their families and friends.</p> <p>Also, coloring is fun.</p>

**Commented [6]:** I have handouts for the homework done, but I can't make them into a google doc because of formatting. I will show you all once we get together. I made an extra coloring one because they are supposed to be kids and coloring is fun. The compost handout can be an optional family activity.

## Materials

3 bins; each labeled  
Recycle, Trash, and  
Compost respectively

1 small bag of garbage  
per group consisting of a  
clean, safe mix of trash,  
recyclables, and  
compostable material.

A Mason jar or other  
appropriate container for  
batteries

2-5 dead batteries

Photos of Recyclable  
Materials

Photos of Compostable  
Materials

Photos of Garbage

Photo of Oscar the  
Grouch

Coloring Page Handout

"How To Make Compost  
At Home" Handout

Small Speaker to Play  
Music on

Hand Sanitizer

## Resources

"Put it in the Compost"  
by Michael Ryther

"I Love Trash" by Oscar  
the Grouch

## Notes

Be sure to make things colorful and  
fun!

Get the kids involved by asking  
questions

**Commented [7]:** Becca- I have these already

**Commented [8]:** This will be taken on by all of us. I asked and there are 45 people we will need to divide into 9 groups of 5. If not everyone shows up that's fine, but I still think we should be fully prepared for everyone to be there. Dr. Silva will observe

**Commented [9]:** Becca- I have so many big mason jars!

**Commented [10]:** Lamiya on the batteries

**Commented [11]:** Daelen on the pictures of recyclables and compost

**Commented [12]:** Lamiya on the photos of garbage and Oscar the Grouch

**Commented [13]:** Becca- homework handouts are done. I will print and staple at home and bring in on presentation day. I also have a large hand sanitizer to bring in and things to play music on. cheers!

## Trash Talk Loose Script:

### Intro:

Hi kids! We are [insert names], and we're here today to do a little trash talk!  
Who knows who Oscar the Grouch is? Raise your hands! [show picture, wait for kids to raise hands]  
Why is he such a grouch? [allow responses, if any]  
He lives in the garbage! It's gross! Wouldn't you be a grouch too if you had to live in an icky, smelly garbage can? [allow response, if any]  
When people don't sort their garbage, it makes the entire planet grouchy! Garbage is piling up in landfills across the globe! How can we stop it?  
Today we are going to show you all how to make your garbage less gross by teaching you how to properly sort it into recyclables, compostables, and trash. This will help keep most of your garbage out of landfills!

### Recycling:

[Hold up recycle symbol and pictures of recyclable materials- glass, plastic, cardboard]  
Why do we recycle? [allow response]  
[that's right!] we recycle so that we can take stuff that we have already used and we send it to a plant where they will make it into something new again!  
Recycling reduces the amount of new materials we need to take from the planet by reusing stuff that is already made! That's what the three arrows in the Recycling symbol stand for: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse  
What kind of things can we recycle? [allow response, anticipate a lot of correct responses]  
[Yes!] We recycle things like cardboard, plastic bottles, paper, and glass  
\*but what about plastic shopping bags?\*

Yes, they can be recycled too! Just keep them all together and take them back to the grocery store. They usually have a big box in the front of the store for you to bring them back for recycling!

\*hey, I have these dead batteries... I heard I can't throw them in the garbage, but what should I do with them?

Those can be recycled too! [pull out mason jar] Keep all your dead batteries in a sturdy container and take them to an electronics store to be recycled! Be sure to get your parent's help.

### Compostables!:

[Show compost symbol and pictures of compostable materials]  
What is compost? [allow for response]  
Compost is like recycling for organic material, but instead of making it into new stuff, you use it as a fertilizer to help new plants grow! Compost has a lot of nutrients that are very good for helping make your dirt into a nice place for plants to live.  
What kind of stuff goes in the compost? [allow for answer]  
We can put all kinds of things in compost! Food scraps like fruits, veggies, and bread, flowers and plants, coffee grounds and tea bags, wet paper, dirty napkins, and more!

**Commented [14]:** Here is a loose script with all the basic information we will need to convey. I figure we will all participate in the intro, activity, psychology, and conclusion parts, but we can do the smaller parts individually with group support! I will try to get a room for us to practice in for the last work day, but please look this over. If we all know it then we can fill in for others if needed!

**Commented [15]:** Got the Room. 5/22 1:30-3:30pm LB1-302. We can meet in class and go to the room. We have an assignment due that day anyway. We can practice quite a few run-throughs in two hours and hopefully stay fresh for presentation day!

**Commented [16]:** Everyone

**Commented [17]:** Lamiya takes point on Recycling. Others hold signs in the back. Daelen to bring up batteries. Bring up plastic bags

**Commented [18]:** Becca Takes point

It's so easy to make a compost pile at home! All you have to do is to collect food scraps and other organic material, pile it in a safe, out of the way place in your backyard. Then you add some dirt and water to give it a head start. It needs to be kept covered so it stays warm! Heat will break down the materials. It needs to be watered and stirred every now and then. You have to be patient! It can take a while to become fully composted! When it is done it will look like very dark dirt. Then you just add a little bit to your normal dirt when you are planting things! It's that simple.

Composting is great because it keeps this food stuff out of the garbage, which is what makes garbage stinky! It keeps organic materials out of landfills and gives them another purpose instead of wasting them.

### **Trash:**

[show trash symbol and pictures of trash]

What kinds of things do we throw in the trash? [allow response]

We throw anything that can't be recycled or composted in the trash. These are materials that can't be used again or repurposed, like chip bags, very small plastics, plastic film, and rubber. Remember not to throw trash into your recycle or compost! It takes time for other people to pick out that garbage and can ruin the recycle and compost.

I'm sure you will see that once you start sorting your garbage at home you will find that very little actually goes in the garbage.

### **Activity:**

So now that you know all of this great information about how to sort your garbage, we are going to do a mini garbage sort right now!

We are going to divide you into – groups of 5 and give each group a little bag of mixed garbage. You guys will need to work together and come up and sort everything into the proper bin! If you aren't sure if something goes in a certain bin, don't be afraid to ask! There is also hand sanitizer when you are finished.

[sort teams, give garbage bags]

[play music until time is up (about 5 minutes) or until everyone seems done]

[praise good sorting] Great job everybody!

### **Psychology:**

So, why did we have you do all of this? [allow responses]

Yes, we want everyone to properly sort their garbage! Now that you have the knowledge, we want all of you to be self-aware when you go to the garbage can and do the right thing for the planet by putting your garbage in the right bin. But there is a little bit more!

We want all of you to set a good example for everyone around you. Did you know that when somebody sees you sort your garbage right, then they are more likely to do it right too? It's true! They are learning correct behavior from your example! We want you to encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to sort their garbage too!

**Commented [19]:** Daelen Takes Point

**Commented [20]:** Everyone participates  
Lamiya divides the groups of 5  
Daelen hands out garbage bags and sorting keys  
Becca Sets up bins and music  
Glover explains the activity

**Commented [21]:** Becca Presents self awareness theory

**Commented [22]:** Glover Presents Informational Social Influence

The last thing we are hoping to teach you is that just because you throw something away, you are still responsible for creating that trash. A lot of people don't think about their garbage beyond throwing it into a can somewhere because it isn't their problem after that. It isn't true! We are all responsible for our garbage, so we have a little challenge for you all! We want you to make a compost pile at home! By making a compost pile at home we want you all to see how much of a positive impact sorting out your organic matter from the garbage makes a difference.

**Homework:**

We made a little handout on how to make compost at home for you and your families! We strongly encourage you to try it out and see how cool and fun it is! We also have a fun little coloring page! You are just going to color in the items and draw a line to sort them into the proper bin to be disposed of. Bring back the coloring page tomorrow please!

Thank you all so much for your willingness and cooperation!

**Commented [23]:** Daelen presents construal level theory

**Commented [24]:** Lamiya assigns homework