**Argument: Should water bottles be banned?**

**Our Claim: Yes, water bottles should be banned.**

**[Think: What is the best argument I can make to convince others that water bottles should be banned?]**

***Reason 1: Water bottles should be banned because plastic water bottles are turning the ocean into a deadly dump.***

Evidence: Scientists say that plastic water bottles have killed more than 100,000,000 marine animals.

Source: Captain Charles J. Moore, internationally recognized expert on marine plastic pollution, and founder of Algalita Marine Research and Education

So What: If marine animals mistake the plastic waste for their food, then they will not able to digest the plastic, and many will choke to death.

**[Notes: Need more details - what else happens when marine animals eat plastic waste? What are some examples of marine animals I can mention to stir empathy?)**

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Evidence: Plastic waste fills the animals' stomachs, causing them to feel full, however the plastic waste has no nutritional value. Baby turtles are especially vulnerable.

Source: Greenpeace Report, Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

So What: If baby turtles feel full from plastic waste, then they will eat less nutritious foods and many will suffer from malnutrition.

**[Notes: What is Greenpeace? How has plastic debris affected turtle population?]**

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Evidence: Human actions are driving turtle populations to extinction. Today, all sea turtles found in U.S. waters are federally listed as endangered, except for the loggerhead which is listed as threatened.

Source: Sea Turtle Conservancy

So What: If we continue to use plastic water bottles, and continue to increase the amount of plastic debris in our oceans, then more and more animals will die.

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**Argument 1 - Speech (Should be approximately 1 minute)**

**Water bottles should be banned because plastic water bottles are turning the ocean into a deadly dump.**

**According to Captain Charles J. Moore, founder of Algalita Marine Research and Education, plastic water bottles have killed more than 100,000,000 marine animals. Animals such as turtles, dolphins, sea lions and sea birds mistake the plastic waste for their food. Since they are not able to digest the plastic, many choke to death.**

**Animals, like sea turtles, which do not choke on the plastic, die from other complications. According *to Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans*, a report published by Greenpeace, an organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and to promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future, "the biggest threat from ingestion occurs when it blocks the digestive tract, or fills the stomach, resulting in malnutrition, starvation and potentially death. About 50-80% of sea turtles that are found dead have eaten plastic debris." Baby turtles are especially vulnerable. When the plastic bits fill their stomachs, and they are not able to eat the quantities of food they need to survive, they suffer from malnutrition and die.**

**What affect does this have on the sea turtle population? According to the Sea Turtle Conservancy, "Human actions are driving turtle populations to extinction. Today, all sea turtles found in U.S. waters are federally listed as endangered."**

**As you can see, if we continue to use plastic water bottles, and continue to increase the amount of plastic debris in our oceans, then more and more animals will die. Water bottles should be banned!**

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Evidence: The whirlpool of plastic waste in the ocean is filled with approximately 3.5 million tons of plastic waste.

Source: "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" National Geographic

So What: Marine animals get trapped in the large pieces of plastic trash, suffocate and die.

Evidence: Plastic can leach toxic chemicals into the animals that eat it.

Source: "Migration of Chemicals from Plastic to Food"

So What: When humans eat the fish that ingested the plastic, we are exposed to the same toxic chemicals and can get sick or die.

**Argument: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Our Claim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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