

Ethan Bledsoe
etb1017
etb1017@gmail.com
West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School

COVER LETTER

PGC showed me that one person can do so much in just a short amount of time. Through the daily challenges, I developed and sharpened my skills. Because I am typically more STEM-focused, I am not in many classes that incorporate creativity. But PGC allowed me to tap back into my creative side through art, graphics, and video editing. I also received such positive feedback from friends, family, and the PGC community that motivated me to continue my fight for the climate crisis—especially using my newly developed artistic abilities. Here are five of my favorite PGC submissions that show creativity and depth.

The Day 1 Greenest - Why Video goes in-depth about the world I want to live in and how it relates to PGC. This video is overall very impactful because of the editing style and music. I had many friends and family contact me about this video, which shows that it was successful in spreading the word to join PGC! The video also covers what I wanted to gain from PGC. I think it was very beneficial to have a setlist of goals to achieve when starting a challenge, and I gained all that I wanted and so much more from PGC. PGC made me realize that, even though I am a part of various activist groups, I was still unaware of many aspects of the climate crisis. Many of the topics I was advocating for prior to PGC were beneficial but more mainstream and less geared towards my community. PGC gave me the opportunity to expand my scope of sustainability and knowledge on various environmental topics.

Another submission I chose was the Day 3 Greenest - Food Video. This video describes how to prepare an organic mushroom cap pizza. This challenge was so fun while still being extremely educational. I learned so much about the FLOSN acronym, cooking sustainably, and the impact of food on the planet. All of this information and happiness shines through in my Greenest Challenge for that day, which is why I am so proud of it.

The Day 4 Greenest - Water Drawing and Graphic was the first time I felt like an eco-hero. I spent so long brainstorming impactful ways to advocate for the worldwide water crises after researching the ongoing water crisis in Dos Palos. After much planning, I came up with a generic design that I brought to life by overlaying textures of grass and barren Earth. The image also has a ton of symbolism attached

to it. The left features a skeleton hand and a barren Earth to represent what will happen if we ignore environmental racism and the water crises. The right represents a society that works to combat environmental racism and water crises. These efforts allow us to preserve our beautiful world, which the viewer is reminded of when seeing "Act NOW OR perish." Also, the poster aims to remind the viewer to "SAVE your WATER" because everyone needs to be conscious of their water consumption! This challenge was so educational and impactful for me, and it shows in my work.

The Day 6 Extra Credit - Waste Drawing and Graphic also features creative aspects, along with an informative graphic. With the drawing, I tried to incorporate as much symbolism as I could! The quote is from *The Story of Plastic*, and Rebecca Altman traces the problem back to this pivotal moment in the mid-1950s when Lloyd Stouffer wanted "to stop thinking about 'reuse' packages and concentrate on single-use. If the plastics industry wants to drive sales, he argued, "it must teach customers how to waste." As we have seen, plastic does not stop at the trash can. It harms nearly everything in the world, from humans to sea creatures. In this drawing, I tried to symbolize our world that is obsessed with plastic with a big plastic bottle with the ocean in it. The ocean is filled with waste. The image (from createdigital.org.au) in the plastic bottle shows plastic bags that look like jellyfish, especially to sea turtles. Sea turtles often attempt to eat them (as shown in the foreground). Finally, for the words on the plastic bag, I wrote "Plastic is Evil" to emphasize how bad plastic is. The rest of the graphic shows my thoughtful reflections on the film, which I thought was amazing! I am proud of this submission because of the symbolic and powerful drawing that pairs nicely with the informative graphics.

The final submission I included in my portfolio is the Day 17 Greenest - Wellness Photo Journal and Reflection. This submission shows my ability to create aesthetically pleasing graphics with insightful reflections. The sanctuary experience was tons of fun from start to finish. To start, I worked with my mom to brainstorm different pieces from our house that would fit for my sanctuary. Once all of the pieces were picked out, it was even easier. All I had to do was plug in all of the lights, light the candles, and relax. It was the perfect experience to finish off my hectic birthday. Lulu, my mom, and I sat under the stars for a while. I read my fabulous new book from the PGC prizes! Lulu seemed to like it even more than I did! She was the first one to run out there and lay down and would not leave when we decided to go in after a few hours. I kept a list of all of the items that I used to create my sanctuary and will definitely be doing this again! I think the graphic with the polaroid photos also turned out very nice. I really love how you can see my joy come through because of how happy I was during all of this challenge as well.

Overall, these submissions show my journey with PGC. I put my all into the daily challenges and competed in every single one to really embrace the PGC experience and learn about the climate crisis as much as possible. Because of the work I put in, I was able to explore and engage with so many different sustainability topics and PGC themes that I never knew about before.

Thank you so much, PGC!

Ethan Bledsoe
etb1017
etb1017@gmail.com
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WHY - GREENEST VIDEO

YouTube Link (quality is best):

https://youtu.be/hG8bkt_Br4g

Google Drive Link (quality is worse):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DlyL-ZQXbdX4MJlrMm1VlsdGYbqNpQEh/view?usp=sharing>

Description:

This video is for PGC Day 1 - Greenest Challenge! It explains why I am doing PGC and how PGC will help me in my sustainability efforts!

Instagram Post Screenshot



Credits:

Music:

Way to Dream - Inspiring Piano and Strings (Keys of Moon Music)

Images:

Zayne Shalabi and Kylie Reif

Title Slide Help:

Irene Bhunia

food:

https://www.google.com/search?q=healthy+food+2560x1440&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwiTyKzFxFxJTsAhVQf6wKHbUJDgAQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=healthy+food+2560x1440&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQAzoHCAAQsQMQQzoECAAQQzoCCAA6BggAEAUQHjoGCAAQCBAeUKBKWMFYYPNzaABwAHgAgAFwiAHmBpIBAzguMpgBAKABAaoBC2d3cy13aXotaW1nwAEB&sclient=img&ei=m2R2XgOONND-sQW1kzg&bih=772&biw=1440&safe=strict#imgsrc=SY8Zli_OhC76TM

city:

https://www.google.com/search?q=city+beautiful+2560x1440&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwjPk9HlwpTsAhXpi6oKHxe9CzAQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=city+beautiful+2560x1440&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQAzoGCAAQBxAeOgglABAHEAUQHIDfMFjpP2D8QWgAcAB4AIALwGIAc8GkgEDOS4xmAEAoAEBqgELZ3dzLXdpei1pbWfAAQE&sclient=img&ei=xmJ2X8-YKumXtgX3-q6AAw&bih=772&biw=1440&safe=strict#imgsrc=Uyzi4sE-O5tLaM

california forest normal:

https://www.google.com/search?q=california+forest+beautiful+2560x1440+size&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwiXrNewvJTSAhUZLqoKHdvABWgQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=california+forest+beautiful+2560x1440+size&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQA1CoaVjBfWDSfmgAcAB4AIAABclgB-weSAQMoljaYAQCgAQGqAQtn3Mtd2l6LWltZ8ABAQ&sclient=img&ei=DVx2XgfxAZnctAXbgZfABg&bih=821&biw=1440&safe=strict&hl=en#imgsrc=GNpThWolAPlgpM

california forest on fire:

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/california-wildfires-2017>

amazon forest normal:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=amazon+forest+beautiful+2560x1440&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwjAzp7rvZTsAhXDi6oKHWZbDZcQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=amazon+forest>

[+beautiful+2560x1440&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQA1CDjQFYrZ4BYL2gAWgAcAB4AIABflgB1AeSAQM3LjJOYAQCgAQGgAQtd3Mtd2l6LWltZ8ABAQ&sclient=img&ei=lF12X8CoEMOXtgXmtrW4CQ&bih=821&biw=1440&safe=strict#imgrc=odWDEeaobqeryM](https://www.google.com/search?q=beautiful+2560x1440&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQA1CDjQFYrZ4BYL2gAWgAcAB4AIABflgB1AeSAQM3LjJOYAQCgAQGgAQtd3Mtd2l6LWltZ8ABAQ&sclient=img&ei=lF12X8CoEMOXtgXmtrW4CQ&bih=821&biw=1440&safe=strict#imgrc=odWDEeaobqeryM)

amazon forest deforestation:

https://www.google.com/search?q=amazon+forest+deforestation+2560x1440&safe=strict&sxsrf=ALeKkooTy93NxBJlrYLLU_nw9ut5hJlhcg:1601592765185&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjqpN_-vZTsAhWNdd8KHSLUBpUQ_AUoAXoECBYQAw&bih=1440&bih=821#imgrc=BNUAmr7J4jNZtM

polar bear normal:

https://www.google.com/search?q=polar+bear+beautiful+2560x1440&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwiS7cLUv5TsAhVKja0KHddgAt4Q2-cCegQIABAA&oq=polar+bear+beautiful+2560x1440&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQAzIECCMQJ1CAogJYgaYCYJWxAmgAcAB4AIABZ4gBhwOSAQMyljKYAQCgAQGgAQtd3Mtd2l6LWltZ8ABAQ&sclient=img&ei=fV92XgK6HsqatgXXwYnwDQ&bih=821&biw=1440&safe=strict#imgrc=OlvrRfDJNcoXzM

polar bear ice melted/after climate change:

https://www.google.com/search?q=climate+change+polar+bears+2560x1440&safe=strict&hl=en&sxsrf=ALeKkooWwSPTVg_2oWsTH4tVEhogo-gpVw:1601593122900&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjdyqipv5TsAhVnQt8KHatzDdoQ_AUoAXoECBUQAw&bih=1440&bih=821#imgrc=HUW_c5VilBuiZM

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FOOD - GREENEST VIDEO



Here is the link to the youtube video recipe:

<https://youtu.be/9FpscTO254g>

Google Drive video (lower quality):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJcmqyUaqN7CxElG1sq2SwHqKRE8PRH9/view?usp=sharing>

Cost Breakdown

***I took into account that I only used a small amount of most of the ingredients**

Mushroom Cap: \$1.25

Bell Peppers: \$0.15

Fresh Mozzarella Cheese: \$0.45

Pizza Sauce: \$0.55

Fresh Parmesan Cheese: \$0.75

Oregano: \$0.80

Basil: Free! It came from my basil plant.

TOTAL: \$3.95

Where Ingredients Were Sourced

Mushroom Cap: Fresh Thyme

Bell Peppers: Fresh Thyme

Fresh Mozzarella Cheese: Fresh Thyme

Pizza Sauce: Walmart

Fresh Parmesan Cheese: Fresh Thyme

Oregano: Fresh Thyme

Basil: My basil plant!

FLOSN Breakdown

Mushroom Cap: Fresh, Organic, Nutritious

Bell Peppers: Fresh, Organic, Nutritious, Seasonal (July through November)

Fresh Mozzarella Cheese: Fresh, Organic

Pizza Sauce: Organic

Fresh Parmesan Cheese: Fresh, Organic

Oregano: Fresh, Organic, Nutritious

Basil: Fresh, Organic, Nutritious, Local

100% are organic.

86% are fresh.

57% are nutritious.

14% are seasonal.

14% are local



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1 like

ethan.pgc Here is my organic mushroom cap pizza! I had tons of fun making the video and learning about how to shop and cook sustainably! 🧑🍳 🍕

@turninggreenorg

#pgc2020

7 minutes ago



RECIPE REPORT



MUSHROOM CAP

\$1.25

Fresh Thyme

Fresh, Organic, Nutritious

BELL PEPPERS

\$0.15

Fresh Thyme

Fresh, Organic, Nutritious, Seasonal

FRESH MOZZARELLA CHEESE

\$0.75

Fresh Thyme

Fresh, Organic

PIZZA SAUCE

\$0.55

Walmart

Organic



RECIPE REPORT



FRESH PARMESAN CHEESE

\$0.75

Fresh Thyme

Fresh, Organic

OREGANO

\$0.80

Fresh Thyme

Fresh, Organic, Nutritious

BASIL

Free

It is my basil plant

Fresh, Organic, Nutritious, Local

OVERALL

Total Cost Per Serving: \$3.95

100% have at least one aspect of FLOSIN

100% of the ingredients are organic

FOOD WASTE

THE ONLY FOOD WASTE
WAS THE MUSHROOM
INSIDES WHICH I WILL
BRING TO MY GRANDMA'S
HOUSE TO COMPOST!

STORAGE

ALMOST ALL OF THE
LEFTOVER INGREDIENTS
WERE STORED IN REUSABLE
STORAGE CONTAINERS FOR
LATER USE!

WHAT I LEARNED

**SHOPPING AND
COOKING
SUSTAINABLY ARE
FUN AND SIMPLE!**

I learned about the FLOSN Acronym (Fresh, Local, Organic, Seasonal, Nutritious). Use these when you go shopping for food! I also learned that cooking sustainably is not that much more expensive. Overall, I found the ingredients that were more sustainable and followed the FLOSN Acronym tasted better.

Ethan Bledsoe
etb1017
etb1017@gmail.com
West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School

WATER - GREENEST DRAWING & GRAPHIC

Instagram Caption:

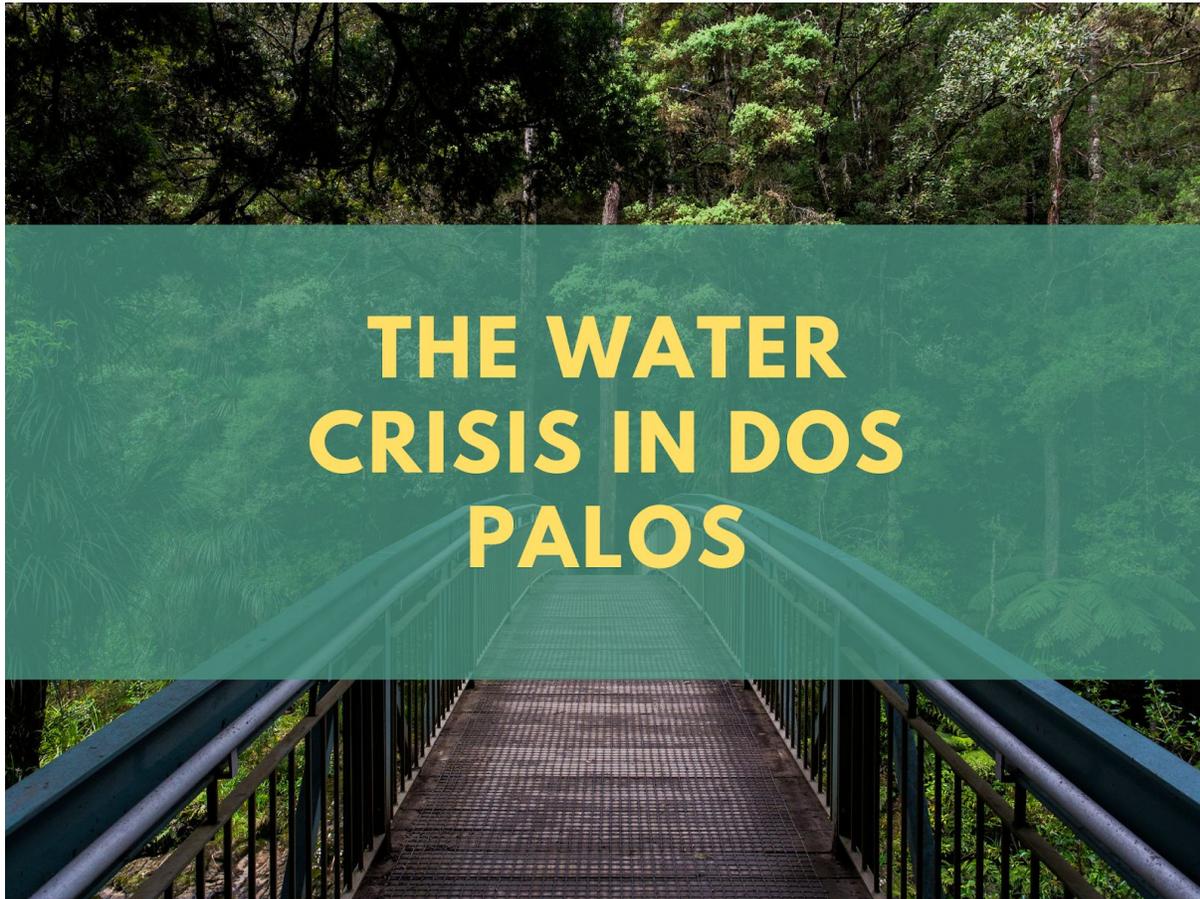
The ongoing water crises and cases of environmental racism around the world inspired me to draw this climate poster! The left features a skeleton hand and a barren Earth to represent what will happen if we ignore environmental racism and the water crises. The right represents a society that works to combat environmental racism and water crises. These efforts allow us to preserve our beautiful world, which the viewer is reminded of when seeing "Act NOW OR perish." Also, the poster aims to remind the viewer to "SAVE your WATER" because everyone needs to be conscious of their water consumption! 💧🌍

There is a water crisis happening in Dos Palos, California, and many other places around the world. In many water crises, BIPOC are the people that are hit the hardest. This is why, we, as climate activists, need to include environmental racism in our activism! We must center our climate activism around the people impacted by environmental racism and target to get rid of the policy put in place to hurt BIPOC. @turninggreenorg @numiorganictea @peterbunder @shaykay68 #pgc2020

My Poster I Drew (it is explained in the first paragraph of the Instagram Caption):



Water Crisis Story/Response:



THE WATER CRISIS IN DOS PALOS

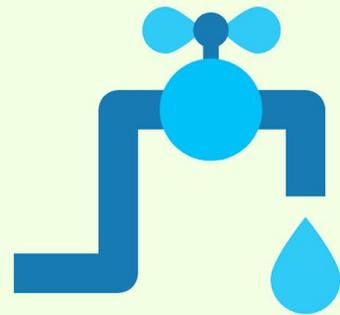
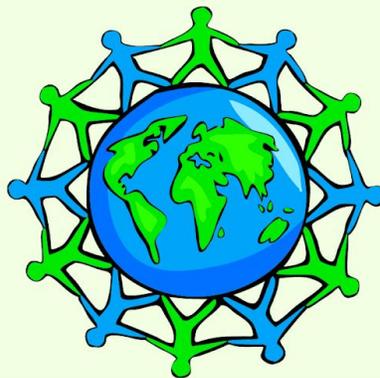
THE STORY OF DOS PALOS

California, in general, has a statewide water sanitation problem (38 out of California's 58 counties violate state water standards). The city of Dos Palos is no exception. Dos Palos has struggled greatly over the past ten years with water sanitation: ranging from contamination with trihalomethanes (which has been linked to kidney problems and increased cancer risk) to algae contamination. These contaminations happen frequently and cause the water to be shut off for long periods of time. The algae contamination is the most recent (occurring in June of 2020) and caused the water to be shut off for three days. Between 2013 and 2018, the city failed 22 water sanitation tests. This shows that the city will likely continue to have water contamination in the future.



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM & ACTION

Similar to the demographics of Flint, Michigan and Orosi, California, Dos Palos's population majority is BIPOC. 70.4% of the community is Hispanic or Latino. This shows another case of environmental racism in the United States. The people of Dos Palos are facing environmental injustices by not having access to safe and clean water because of the policy and practices set up. To combat this and other instances of environmental racism, we, as climate activists, need to organize around these injustices. It is not enough to just ask for changes in policy and ignore the populations that are most affected. So, I am calling all climate activists to center your climate activism around environmental racism and include specific examples like Flint, Orosi, and Dos Palos.



Instagram Screenshot:



ethan.pgc The ongoing water crises and cases of environmental racism around the world inspired me

THE STORY OF PLASTIC



ETHAN BLEDSOE
ETB1017
ETB1017@GMAIL.COM
WEST LAFAYETTE JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

MY DRAWING

The
future
of
PLASTICS



is in
the
TRASH CAN

- Lloyd Stouffers

SYMBOLISM

I tried to incorporate as much symbolism as I could into my drawing! The quote is from the film and Rebecca Altman traces the problem back to this pivotal moment in the mid-1950s when Lloyd Stouffer wanted "to stop thinking about 'reuse' packages and concentrate on single use. If the plastics industry wants to drive sales, he argued, "it must teach customers how to waste." As we have seen, plastic does not stop at the trash can. It harms nearly everything in the world from humans to sea creatures. In this drawing, I tried to symbolize our world that is obsessed with plastic with the big plastic bottle with the ocean in it. The ocean is filled with waste.

The image (from createdigital.org.au) in the plastic bottle shows plastic bags that look like jellyfish, especially to sea turtles. Sea turtles often attempt to eat them (as shown in the foreground). Finally, for the words on the plastic bag, I wrote "Plastic is Evil" to emphasize how bad plastic is.

THINGS I LEARNED

1) 1/2 of all plastic was produced in the last 15 years.

2) Plastic can only be recycled once.

3) There are 83 recognized types of plastic, making it extremely difficult to separate plastics to recycle.

ONE SENTENCE SUMMARY

The film offered so much insight and educational content that inspires me to include the plastic crisis in my environmental activism.

MOTIVATION

The film motivated me to share it with my friends in family. I shared it with over 20 people and had a conversation with around 10 of them about it. We talked about different ways we could stop the plastic crisis like clean ups and activism around it. I talked to some of my friends about how we should make a climate event centered around the plastic crisis and share information we learned from the film.

REVIEW

The film was very eye-opening to me. It taught me a lot about the negative impacts of plastic. The film started from why became so popular and even talked about the future because in 2050, we will have more plastic in our oceans than fish. It gave a lot of perspectives from different professionals in the field. Overall, it was an amazing and educational documentary that I recommend for you to check out!

LINK TO TRAILER

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/37PDWW0C1SO](https://youtu.be/37pdww0c1so)

ACTIONS I CAN TAKE

I will be doing all of the actions that I listed in the call to action!

CALL TO ACTION

Watch the film! I highly recommend it. In addition, research the areas most impacted by plastic. Take part in plastic pickups. Hold politicians accountable to make companies reduce their plastic production and make the companies responsible for the waste of their products. Finally, I encourage you to research plastics in general: from the production process to where it ends up. This will make you more informed and better prepared to fight the plastic crisis!



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1/7

STORY OF PLASTIC



ethan.pgc Check out this graphic I made about the Story of Plastic. It is an amazing documentary that I recommend you check out! 🌍... more

9 seconds ago

Ethan Bledsoe
etb1017
etb1017@gmail.com
West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School



wellness - greenest challenge:

MY SANCTUARY

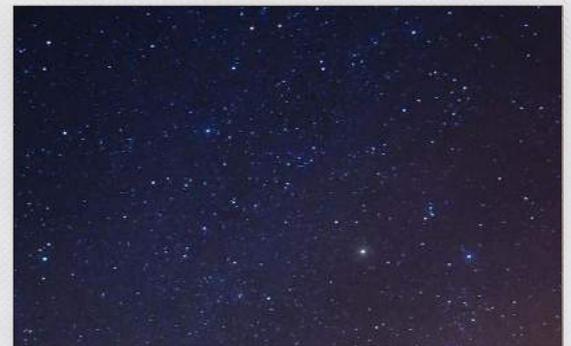
on a fall day!

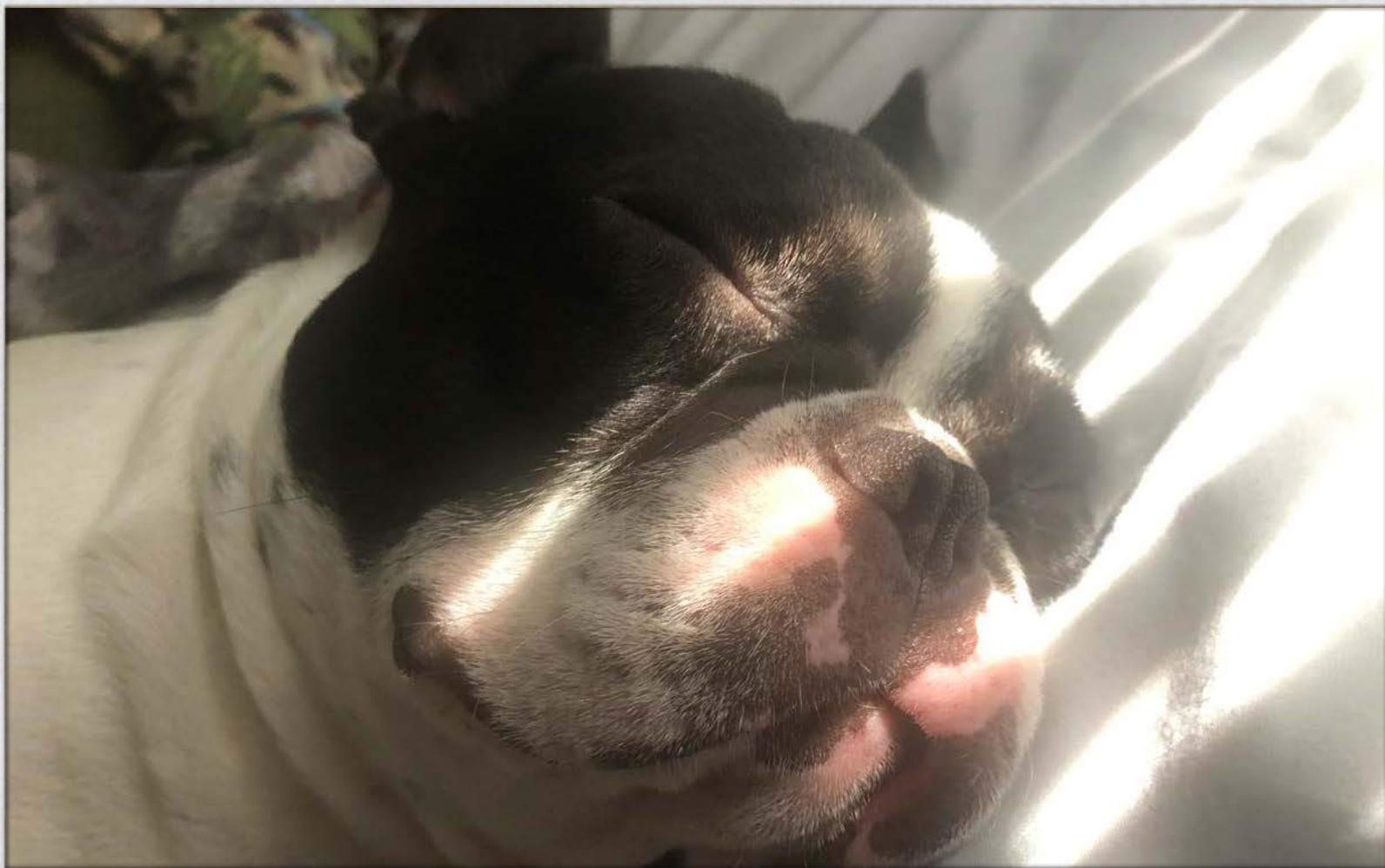


Items Used

I drew inspiration from various things around my house to make my sanctuary. The first item is a lamp with an Edison lightbulb that I have always wanted to read with. My family's indoor/outdoor rug. A salt lamp that is cage light and is a really pretty light source. A body pillow from my bedroom. Candles from my candle business. A butterfly pillow from my living room. The next photo shows more of the aesthetic I wanted out of my sanctuary. A throw blanket from my living room as well. Finally, I wanted to look at the stars. The final and most important piece is Lulu! She always makes me happy.







Location and Setup

There was not enough room in my house to designate a whole space as my sanctuary. So, I decided to get together some items from my house and take them out. Even though I had to take the sanctuary down, I will put it up often for when I want to relax outside. Today was my birthday, so I knew that I needed to make the sanctuary well-lit (especially if I wanted to read). I just received some PGC prizes and wanted to get a start on *Inconscius Consumption*. That is why there were so many sources of light: the salt lamps, the Edison lamp, and the candles. Even though there were quite a lot of pieces, it took barely any time to setup.



Final Results



Final Results



Final Results



Final Results



Final Results



Final Results



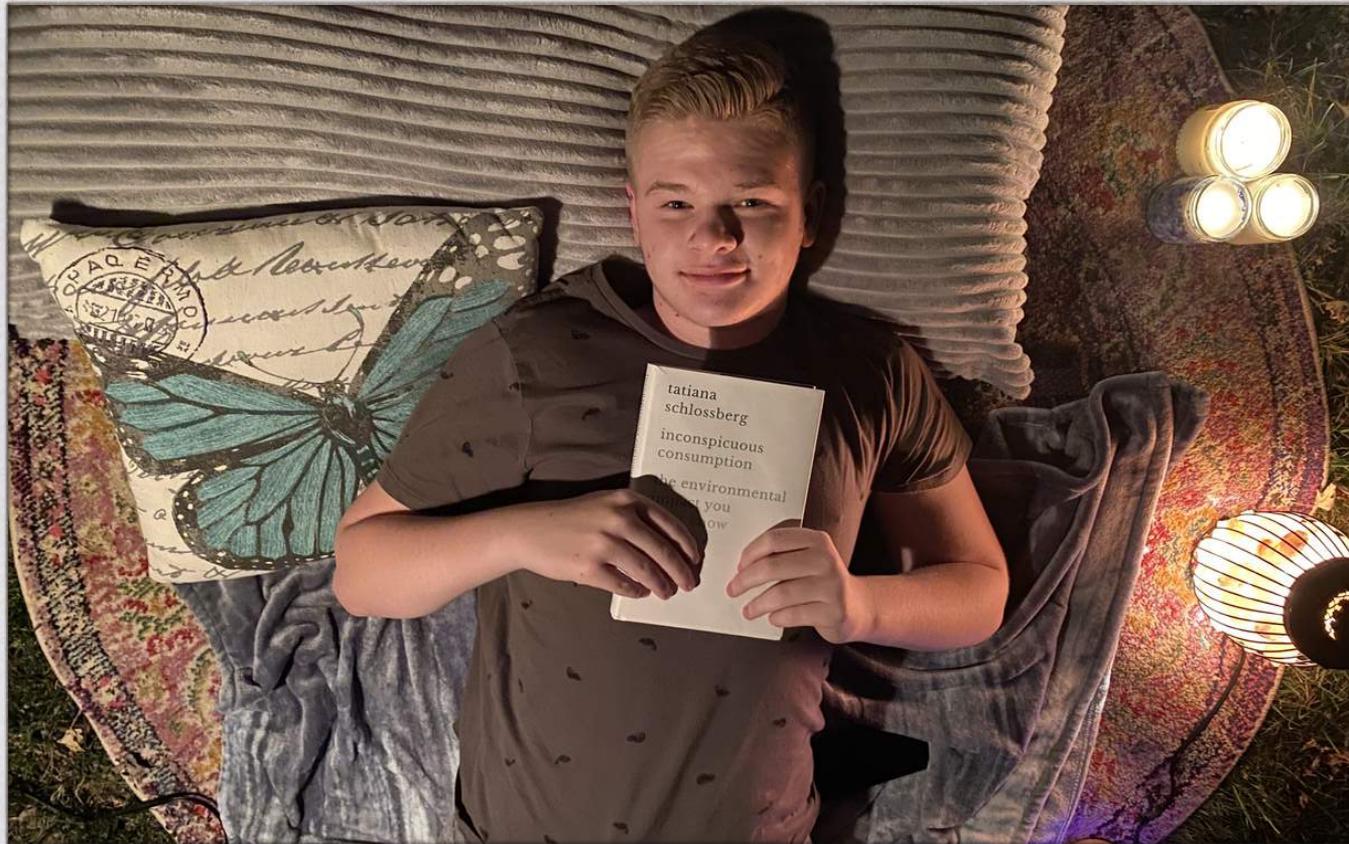
Final Results



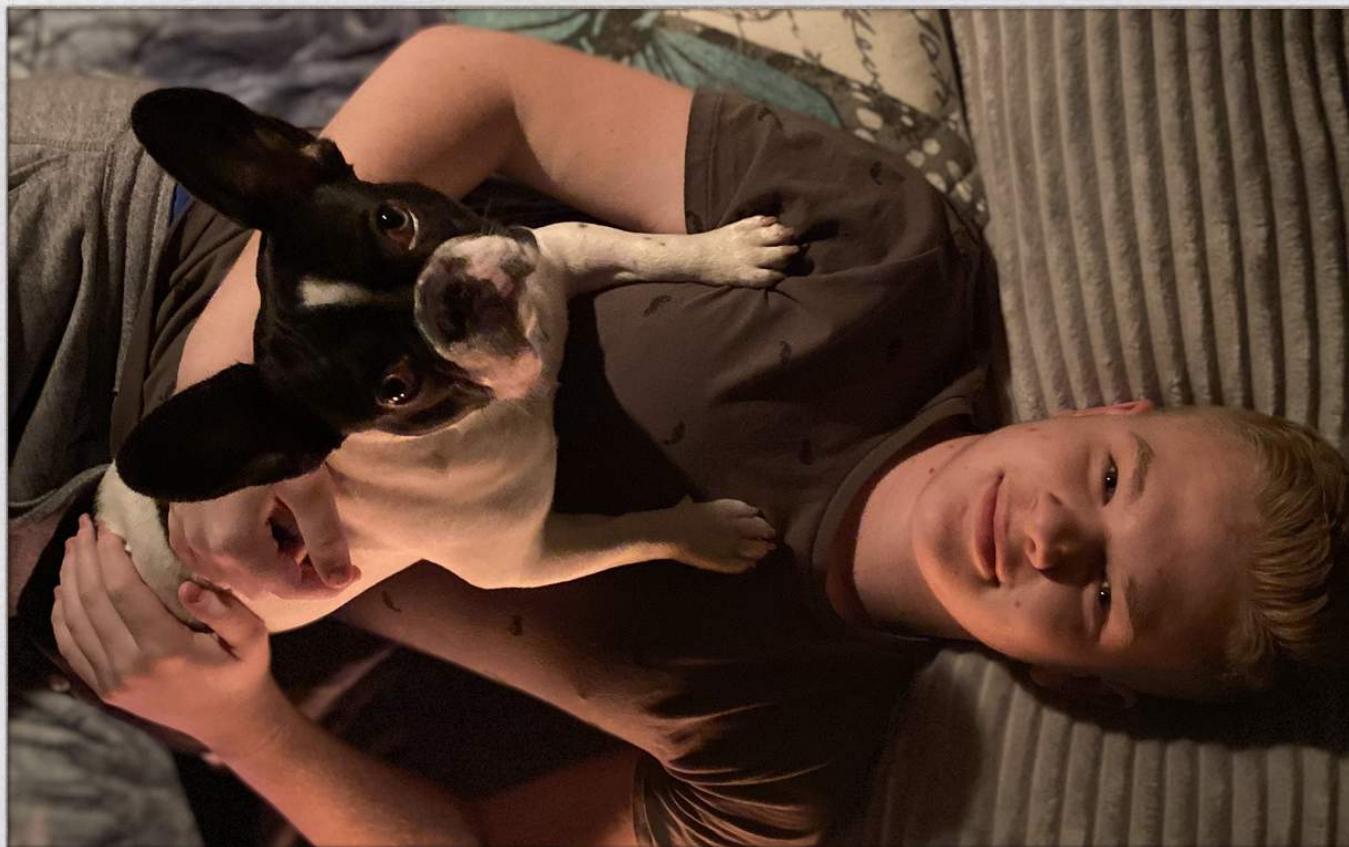
Final Results



Final Results



Final Results



Final Results

This experience was tons of fun from start to finish. To start, I worked with my mom to brainstorm different pieces from our house that would fit for my sanctuary.

Once all of the pieces were picked out, it was even easier. All I had to do was plug in all of the lights, light the candles, and relax. It was the perfect experience to finish off my hectic birthday. Lulu, my mom, and I sat under the stars for a while. I read my amazing new book from the PGC prizes! Lulu seemed to like it even more than I did! She was the first one to run out there and lay down and would not leave when we decided to go in after a few hours. I kept a list of all of the items that I used to create my sanctuary and will definitely be doing this again!





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etb1017
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West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School



wellness - greenest challenge:

MY SANCTUARY

on a fall day!



ethan.pgc Part: 1/2. Self care matters! We all need to take some time for ourselves each and every day. This could mean treating yourself to a few extra minutes of something you enjoy like reading or running. It could also mean making yourself an outdoor sanctuary like I did today! This sanctuary is a place for mindfulness. I read, thought, and relaxed all in one place. Since it was outside, I did need to take it down. But I will definitely bring all of the items back out in the future because this experience was so amazing! 🧘📖

@turninggreenorg

@natracare

#pgc2020



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Final Results

1/6



ethan.pgc Part 2/2: These are more of the final results of my sanctuary and my reflection! 🧘🌍

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1 minute ago