

# What Do You Think?

**Should we ban plastic bags?** Use evidence from the article to support each side of this debate. Write the information on the lines below.



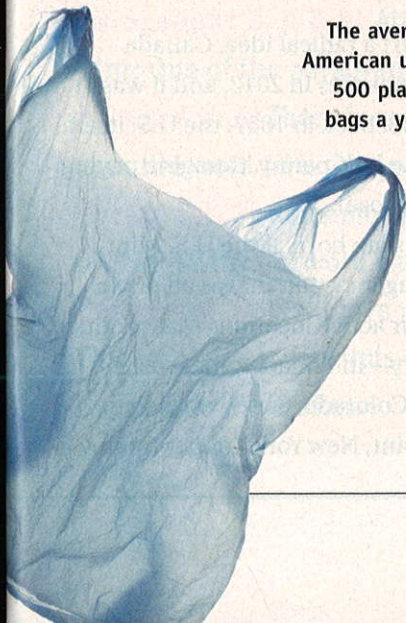
process causes 70 percent more air pollution and 50 times more water pollution than the process used to make plastic bags.

Plastic bags are also more sanitary than **reusable** cotton or canvas bags, which can harbor harmful germs from raw meat and produce. A recent study showed that about 1 in every 10 reusable grocery bags contains bacteria that can make humans sick. (Supporters of a plastic bag ban are quick to point out that the solution is to wash reusable bags more often.)

Rather than banning plastic bags, some argue for limiting their use. Charging a fee per bag at the checkout counter, for instance, might encourage shoppers to use fewer bags. Stores could also offer bags made of more Earth-friendly materials, such as corn.

And why ban bags when we can reuse them? Ninety percent of Americans reuse their plastic bags at home for everything from lining trash cans to picking up dog poop.

It's clear that we love our plastic bags. But do they do more harm than good? ●



The average American uses 500 plastic bags a year.

## YES

**Plastic bags are the worst.**

1 Plastic bags don't biodegrade.

2

3

## NO

**Plastic bags aren't all bad.**

1

2

3

**EXAMINE POINTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE—AS WELL AS YOUR OWN BELIEFS**—and decide if plastic bags should be banned. State your opinion in one sentence below. This can become the thesis statement for an argument essay.

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