

# ***NOBODY TRASHES TENNESSEE***

## Litter Solutions

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# Tennessee 4-H Youth Development

## *Nobody Trashes Tennessee* *Litter Solutions*

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**Skill Level**  
Beginner

**Learner Outcomes**

*The learner will be able to:*

- Describe why people litter.
- Understand solutions to prevent litter.
- Apply creative design strategies to prevent litter.

**Educational Standard(s) Supported**

5.ETS1.1: Research, test, re-test, and communicate a design to solve a problem

**Success Indicator**

*Learners will be successful if they:*

- Apply their knowledge of litter solutions to real-world scenarios.

**Time Needed**

30 Minutes

**Materials List**

- Computer and Projector with Audio
- Sticky Notes
- Pencils or Pens
- Nobody Trashes Tennessee Student Handout – Litter Scenarios

**Introduction to Content**

Litter is a major environmental problem worldwide, and the latest “Nobody Trashes Tennessee” campaign from the Tennessee Department of Transportation empowers citizens to make positive changes in their communities to create a safer, more beautiful state.

**Introduction to Methodology**

Students will brainstorm situations where people might litter and then learn about solutions to prevent litter. They will then use the send-a-problem technique to apply creative design strategies to real-world litter prevention scenarios.

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## Terms and Concepts Introduction

The Tennessee Department of Transportation wrote, “Every year, it costs Tennessee more than \$15 million to clean up roadside litter. It’s time to put an end to this. Keep your trash to yourself and our roadways clear. Because nobody trashes Tennessee.”

## Setting the Stage and Opening Questions

Share the following video with students: [tiny.utk.edu/litterPSA](http://tiny.utk.edu/litterPSA)

Ask students, **“In Tennessee, litter costs our state more than \$15 million each year to clean up roadside litter. Why do you think litter is so expensive to clean up?”**

*Answers might include, “People clean up litter for their jobs.”  
“Cleaning up litter requires materials like gloves, trash bags and transportation.”*

Say, **“Today, we will learn why some people litter, talk about our personal responsibility to prevent litter and think of some strategies to prevent litter”**

### Tips for Engagement

This activity might be challenging for some students. Help them brainstorm by asking questions about situations where it would be easy for a person to litter. Examples include busy parents, messy kids and tired workers.

Before the lesson, cut apart each row on the *Nobody Trashes Tennessee Student Handout – Litter Scenarios*. This will save paper and keep students focused on one scenario at a time.

## Experience

Say, **“Creative people have designed solutions to prevent litter. Here are just a few of their solutions:**

- **Place trash cans in areas where people commonly litter.**
- **Choose trash cans with secured lids.**
- **Put rocks in the bottom of outdoor trash cans to keep them from moving.**
- **Use bungee cords to keep them closed.**
- **Keep a litter bag in cars.**
- **Cover truck beds with tarps when traveling with items that could fly out when driving.**
- **Pick up after dogs using plastic bags or scoopers.”**

Give each student two sticky notes. Say, **“On one sticky note, describe a person who might litter. Do not write a name. On the other sticky note, explain why that person might litter. An example of a person who might litter is a high school student. The high school student might litter because she is mad about making a 32 percent on her science test, so she throws it out the window of the school bus on her way home. When you finish writing, come place your sticky note on the board. Be creative and think about different reasons! Let’s see how many situations we can describe as a class.”**

## Share

After students place their sticky notes on the board, group similar scenarios together and share examples with students.

Ask students, **“Why do people litter?”**

## Process

Ask students, **“What are some ways you could encourage people to stop littering?”**

## Generalize

Ask students to create a haiku about litter prevention.

## Apply

Say to students, **“Think back to the situations you described where people might litter. People litter for many reasons, but we can use creative solutions to prevent it. We are now going to use this new knowledge to solve a real-world problem.”**

Divides students into groups of three. Say, **“I am going to give each group a piece of paper that describes a problem where a person might litter. Your group will work together to come up with one solution. After one minute, you will pass the situation and the solution to another group. They will then think of another solution for one minute. Then, they will pass it to the next group to read the problem and possible solutions aloud to the entire class.”**

### Life Skills from TIPPs for 4-H

#### 5th Grade

Participate in 4-H club meetings by saying pledges, completing activities, and being engaged. (Head)

When reading, consider ideas, thoughts, information, or messages that have been written. (Heart)

Speak clearly and effectively in group settings. (Hands)

# ***Supplemental Information***

## ***Educational Standards Met***

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### **Standards**

5.ETS1.1: Research, test, re-test, and communicate a design to solve a problem

### **Sources**

<http://www.keptnbeautiful.org/litter-prevention/> litter/

<https://nobodytrashestennessee.com>

# Tennessee 4-H Youth Development

## Nobody Trashes Tennessee: Litter Scenarios

Scenario	Solution 1	Solution 2
Mario is a kindergartener who just finished his ice cream bar. The wrapper is messy.		
Raleigh had to run an errand during her lunch break, so she had to eat in her car.		
Evan is a farmer fixing a fence on his property. He keeps the scrap pieces in his truck.		
Jiaxin ate his breakfast while waiting at the bus stop. He doesn't want to carry the trash with him.		
Kelly puts paper outside in her recycling bin, but in the morning, it is scattered around in a big mess.		
A raccoon got into Derrick's trash last night, and it is now all over his yard.		
Mona finished drinking a soda while driving.		
The trash can outside Jerica's school keeps disappearing.		
Dev takes his dog, Win, on a walk in the park. Win uses the bathroom.		