

"The Hidden Life of Garbage",

Summary The article "The Hidden Life of Garbage", is written by Heather Rogers. This is a descriptive essay in which she describes the waste disposal system in the US and its further danger. According to the writer, American people produce huge amount of garbage/trash every day. These wastes are collected by heavy garbage trucks and these rejectamenta is taken to a recycling center, an incinerator, or most often to sanitary landfill. This landfill dumpsite is operated and managed by Waste Management Inc., the largest rubbish handling corporation in the world. These high- tech, high-capacity dumps are comprised of a series of earth covered cells that can be ten to one hundred acres and up to hundreds of feet deep, the length of one hundred football fields and the height of the Washington Monument. As the writer writes, the types of garbage are potato chip wrappers, tattered plastic bags, old shoes, old clothes, etc. In the landfill site, the workers dump, pack and fill the earth with almost forty million pounds of municipal wastes daily.

All over the world land dumping has become the primary disposal method for many years. The waste is dumped into the landfill. A landfill is systematically built in which big liners are kept underground just below the garbage.

Landfills are the sources of toxic/ poisonous liquid waste. So, the waste is held above the synthetic liners to keep it from leaking into the soil and polluting the ground water. However, these liners have also life expectancy of only 30 to 50 years. After their expiry, the landfills operators and disposal corporations will not be responsible for the problems created by their landfills.

As Rogers mentioned in her essay, the methods of waste disposal are only short- term solutions. So, getting rid of garbage or trash is becoming a big problem soon. The essay tells us to become aware of this problem and says to join hands to make change by taking actions to solve this growing problem. The more we ignore this problem, the more it pushes us towards the nightmare created by the garbage. Through this essay, the writer intends to say that the main problem is not what to do with the trash, but how much trash we produce in our homes. Rogers concludes her essay with the repressed question - "What if we did not have so much trash to get rid of?" That means the main problem is the amount of trash/rubbish that we produce at home.