

# Operation Trash



**Learning how to deal with our trash in an environmentally friendly way, and the important role recycling plays in achieving this goal.**

Operation Trash teaches the importance of good trash management and the problems that arise when we 'trash' our communities and pollute our planet. Participants will be asked to look critically at their own trash behavior as well as analyze trash 'hotspots' in densely populated areas.

Operation Trash advocates ***'Thinking global and acting local'***.



Operation Trash uses creative arts and games which enhance ***good group dynamics*** while targeting the following themes:

The ***mountains of trash*** that our society produces each year.

***Shop 'til you Drop***: choosing sustainable products over cheap low quality ones can help preserve the world's resources.

The dangers of plastic bags, as well as other disposable products and how ***'plastic soup'*** is ruining our waterways.

***"We used to throw things 'away', now there is no 'away' "***

*W. McDonough en M. Braungart, Cradle to Cradle*

## Goals

- \* ***Teach*** teenagers how they can contribute to a cleaner environment
- \* ***Inform*** about the consequences of wrong trash behavior
- \* ***Inspire*** participants to share Eco Info with their families and communities
- \* ***Less trash*** on the streets/along roadsides and more in the bins
- \* ***Increase*** general awareness of environmental problems

Avalanche Arts is founded by Kathie diStefano (USA) and Aloysuis van Saus (NL). This American-Dutch connection has been bringing people together through performance arts for over 25 years. Shedding light on important social themes to audiences of all ages has been a consistent part of their work. In recent years Avalanche Arts has been focusing on the green theme. "Learning through laughter", the company motto, combines comedy with Eco-learning. Avalanche strives to tickle their audiences into change so that people learn how to deal with trash in a way that does not continue to damage our environment.

**Interactive Kick Off:** This introduction includes class discussions and a slide show full of facts, figures and artistic images all revolving around the need for reducing our trash and increased recycling efforts on both a local and global scale.

### Research and presentation

Students choose a trash related theme, conduct research and present their findings.

The presentation can include multi-media tools and creative arts to enhance the work.



**Sustainable Products:** A series of sustainable products are lined up for investigation. Questions like: *'What material is this product made of?'* *'how long will it take to decompose?'* and *'which products are the most environmentally friendly?'* are posed to trigger students into reflection and discussion about sustainable products vs disposable.



### Eco Memory card game

Avalanche Arts designed and produced this game to teach Dutch students about recycling and good trash behavior. Unlike traditional Memory the players are looking for which trash item goes into the corresponding recycling bin. Recycling strategies differ from country to country. By looking for the correct recycling bins players learn about how the Dutch recycle.

### Convert a Bulletin Board into a Giant Newspaper

Poster-like 'shout outs', background articles, comic strips, illustrations, poems and photos are but a few of the possibilities that can fill a Giant Newspaper. Creating a giant newspaper gives students the opportunity to combine different communication styles, while sharing their ideas and thoughts with fellow students. Students can work in large or small groups on this assignment. It's interesting to see this giant newspaper evolve from start to finish.

**Community Clean ups:** Cleaning up litter and investigating how 'trash hotspots' came to be is the focus of this activity. Photography can be incorporated into this event when students are invited to take pictures during the clean up. These pictures can then be presented to the class, posted on social media and/or exhibited along with other student work.



**The Eco Quiz:** This activity is a great way to test general knowledge and review lesson materials. In addition to questions revolving around the trash and recycling theme, the quiz also includes video's and animations. Students team up in small groups to have fun while practicing social and communication skills, and a bit of friendly competition.



**Make a Public Service Announcement** and post it on social media.