



IN THE MIDDLE:

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I found a way to get involved

A few months ago, I was working on a video project in my ninth period reading class at Barker Middle School about environmental health problems. My group decided our video should be about pollution. As we were researching, we came across some shocking information. We found out that more than 40 percent of the world's population dies because of pollution.

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That really got me thinking about our world's problems and how I could be part of the solution. I started dreaming up different ideas and solutions but I never expressed my ideas. After all, I'm just a seventh grader. I never thought that someone like me could do something as big as the ideas in my head.

After our reading projects were over, we ended up starting another project almost exactly like it in language arts. This time, I chose to do my project on deforestation and, once again, all the research and information got me thinking of how I could help. My language arts teacher, Ms. Frever, was also the teacher in charge of newspaper, so we started talking about the project after school. That's when I told her about my ideas and how I wished that I could do something to help. I also even told her about my idea that maybe the whole school could participate in something to help, and she started to really get into it. She told me that if I could come up with a solid plan, she would help me find a way to present it to the principal.

So I did, and every sin-

gle day I would come up with different thoughts and ideas to add on to this plan. Although it might not have been the huge fantasies that I thought up before, this idea was still fantastic. I had also been very excited to present this to the principal so, when I did, I made sure that I mentioned every little detail I could to make sure she approved. Luckily, she liked my idea and I immediately started making lists of things I needed and asking different teachers if they could help. I also couldn't stop thinking about how I was actually going to help the world in some way.

After sifting through the many thoughts in my head I decided to have a field day fundraiser so I could raise money to donate to a worthy cause. I had to do quite a bit of research in order to find out where I was going to donate this money because I wanted it to be given to someone who would help more than one problem. So when I came across Greenpeace International, I was like, "Oh my gosh, this is perfect!" They not only help to prevent all kinds of different environmental problems like deforestation, pollution, animal extinction and water scarcity, but many more problems that I wasn't even aware of.

I'm so excited to be able to organize something this big. Not only does it make me feel good to know I am helping others, but it tells me that I'm doing something unique that not a lot of people my age would do. I have a lot more ideas and am hoping this is just the first of many projects that I can be involved in.

Anastasia Attar is a seventh-grader at Barker Middle School. In the Middle is a regular column produced by MCAS middle school students.