

EXAMPLE PERSUASIVE THEME WITH A COUNTERCLAIM, VERSION 1

Prompt: Choose an issue that is pertinent to saving the environment, and create a claim related to that issue. Write a Persuasive Theme containing at least three major reasons explaining why your claim is correct. Add a Counterargument Paragraph to show why your claim might be disputed. Use the APA style.

TITLE OF PAPER: Artificial Turf: Green and Clean!

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Artificial Turf: Green and Clean!

Artificial turf is the perfect addition to the landscape of homes and other buildings. Not surprisingly, most people think that artificial turf belongs on baseball and football fields. It is the green surface that covers many sports fields today. In contrast to the natural grass used on sports fields in the past and in many lawns, artificial turf is man-made grass. It looks very much like natural grass, but it is made from petroleum chemicals, which are made from crude oil. Conveniently, it can be purchased in large rolls to cover a lawn, much like sports fields are covered. Because artificial grass is easy to maintain, safe, and attractive, and especially because it can change people's lives in positive ways and save the environment, it should be seriously considered for use in the lawns around homes and buildings.

Probably the most important reason for using artificial turf in lawns is that it requires little maintenance. Most crucially, artificial turf does not grow, so it does not have to be mowed. People do not need to spend time mowing and do not need to purchase a lawn mower. They do not have to hire other people to mow it. Also, since artificial turf does not grow, it does not need water and fertilizing. People need not spend time moving their sprinklers and spreading fertilizer. They need not spend their money on water, water sprinklers, or fertilizer. A lot of water can be saved in locations suffering from droughts. Additionally, weeds do not grow in artificial turf. People do not have to spend time spreading weed killer on it and pulling weeds out of it. They do not need to buy weed killers or spreaders. This will help to save the environment by not putting more chemicals into the ground.

Another important reason why artificial turf should be used in lawns is that it is safe. Because the turf is all the same length, it creates a very even surface. It is easy to run and walk on. Further, as long as the ground is leveled before the turf is installed, there should be no dips or breaks in it. Moreover, because it is artificial, there are no rocks in it. There is nothing that would cause a person to trip or scrape a knee. Finally, because artificial turf is not alive, it does not create pollens. People who are allergic to grass pollens will not suffer as much from hay fever and asthma if their buildings are surrounded by artificial grass.

A final reason why artificial grass should be used in lawns is that it is very attractive and clean. Not surprisingly, it is very pleasant looking because the green color is uniform throughout it. People who like a clean-looking environment will enjoy its appearance. Because it covers the ground entirely, artificial turf never has mud or dirt associated with it. People who walk over it will not get mud or dirt on their shoes that they can track into buildings. Additionally, artificial turf does not change with the seasons. It does not turn brown in the winter, so it is always a pleasant green color. In fact, artificial turf sparkles a bit in the sunshine. It always has a “dressed up” appearance.

Naturally, artificial turf has some drawbacks. Most importantly, artificial turf is more expensive than natural grass. Natural grass can be planted with a small amount of grass seed. Artificial turf is purchased by the square foot and requires installation by experts. Many lawns cover acres of land and would require acres of turf. Further, because it is made of petroleum products, pollution is caused when artificial turf is made. Also, artificial turf gets very hot in the sunshine. Children (and

their parents) may not be willing to play on it in hot climates. In addition, it does not absorb pet waste; pet owners will have to do more cleanup work as a result. When it wears out after several years, artificial turf will have to be thrown into a landfill. It will create a large amount of waste when it is discarded.

To conclude, although it has some disadvantages, artificial turf in lawns can enhance the quality of people's lives in several ways. First, people will save money, time, and effort because they will not need to take care of it. They will save money because they will not have to buy water, sprinklers, fertilizer, weed killer, and lawn mowers. This saved money will offset the money spent to buy it. Second, they will be safe and healthy. They will not trip, twist their ankles, or injure themselves on rocks. They may have fewer allergic symptoms. Third, the benefits of saving water in drought-plagued locations will offset the problems associated with discarding it. Perhaps ways of recycling it can be designed. Fourth, people will enjoy looking at buildings and parks more because they will have beautiful landscapes. They will feel good about the appearance of their surroundings. Pet owners and parents will need to weigh the available choices carefully and make decisions according to their values. Nevertheless, because of all the benefits, people need to seriously consider purchasing artificial turf to enhance the quality of their lives and the environment.