

Name: Annika Wegener

Grade: 8

Subject of Writing: Kirkland's Call to Action

Type of Writing: Letter to the Editor

School: Northstar Middle School

School District: Lake Washington School District

Submitted: April 2020

Focus: Describe in one sentence what you wrote about.

The citizens of Kirkland must act and become more environmentally conscious.

Who or what inspired this piece?

Our planet, our kids, and our future need environmental activism to be a celebrated part of our culture, not a quality reserved only for leaders. I wanted to use the Kirkland Reporter's platform to reach a different audience than I usually aim for. Among my peers, I regularly encourage environmental activism and lead by example. Much of The Kirkland Reporter's audience consists of older people, and I wanted to lead by example not just in my own age group, but with other demographics as well.

Personal Reflection: How did writing this piece change you; your outlook, your knowledge, your skills? What went well? What didn't go well? How would you improve your writing if you were to do it again? (one paragraph)

To write this piece, I needed to think about how to introduce the urgency of combatting climate change to people who are not my peers or already passionate about sustainability. The generation inheriting the Earth focuses on sustainability a lot. What about generations who didn't grow up with global warming? I needed to balance the right amount of fear, anger, inspiration, and motivation to create a successful call to action. Writing the letter also challenged me because The Kirkland Reporter requires letters to be under 300 words. I needed to remove any unnecessary words and be crisp and clear. Going forward, I may give myself a word limit when writing so I can express more with fewer words. If I wrote the letter again, I would focus more on what readers could do instead of what I'm doing, as I may have provided too much information in pursuit of leading by example.