Ripple Effect Project

A “ripple effect” is the spread of consequences; a spreading series of effects or consequences caused by a single event or choice.

A person’s action, whether it’s positive or negative, can have similar effect of that of a ripple effect.
**Ripple Effect**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduating from high school</td>
<td>If student decides to stay in school and graduate</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1. **Me:** Earn more money over a lifetime; skilled worker; big contributor to your community and society as a whole; more choices and opportunities in the workplace and in post-secondary education. 70% of students currently graduate from America’s high schools.

2. **Family:** Able to provide for and contribute to your family (help pay the bills); cycle of poverty ends; positive influence on family members that education is important and valuable.

3. **Friends:** Positive influence on friends; role model for others; help friends with choices; able to share the experience of college; help friends from making bad decisions/choices.

4. **Community:** Contribute positively to your community; don’t become a statistic (prisoner, addict, need of public assistance); attend a community college or university; leader in your community. Nation spends on average of $9,644 a year to educate a student. Average annual cost per inmate is $22,600. The United States spent almost $50 billion in incarceration costs in 2004. A 10% increase in the male graduation rate would reduce murder and assault rates by 20%, motor vehicle theft by 13%, and arson by 8%.
1. **Me:** Forfeit personal wealth; earn 40% less than a high school graduate; finding a well paying job would be more difficult; a less skilled worker; most likely to live in poverty; become part of the “system” (being incarcerated); more likely to work harder; physical labor; low wage, more manual labor.

   - 3 out of 10 students fail to graduate
   - 75% of America’s state prison inmates
   - 59% of federal inmates
   - 69% of jail inmates did not graduate from high school
   - Dropouts are three and half times more likely to be arrested than high school graduates

2. **Family:** Continue the cycle of poverty from one generation to the next; dropping out is acceptable behavior; couldn’t help support the family financially.

3. **Friends:** Lack of friends; associate yourself with negative friends or behavior; boredom and the feeling of hopelessness; most likely to participate in negative behavior; lack of positive experiences such as traveling and college life; lack of mentors and role models;

4. **Community:** Become a “statistic” (being incarcerated or falling into the system); most likely to need financial assistance and resources; unskilled worker that is not prepared for the future; not trained for future technological break-through.

   - Nation spends on average of $9,644 a year to educate a student
   - Average annual cost per inmate is $22,600
   - The United States spent almost $50 billion in incarceration costs in 2004

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<td><strong>Action</strong></td>
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1. **Local:** less littering in our communities; better looking communities; less illegal dumping; safer drinking water; cleaner rivers and streams; cleaner air; more recycling programs; less water wasted;

2. **State:** Less chemical waste; preserving forests and lakes; more money spent on other programs versus cleaning up the environment; saving energy; wildlife protection;

3. **National:** U.S. becomes less contaminated; federal funding increase for other needed programs; investing more in the future; more jobs; energy independent; consumers save more money.

4. **Global:** Healthier oceans; less disease; slows down ozone layer deterioration; greener economy.
### Ripple Effect

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<tr>
<td>Not protecting the environment</td>
<td>Not saving the Environment (Planet)</td>
<td>Negative</td>
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#### Local:
- Dirtier communities; unsafe drinking water; more illness/bad health;
- Bad pollution; poor soil to grow food or plants; less parks and open spaces;

#### State:
- Higher fines for polluting the air;
- Spend more money on cleaning our air or soil;
- Attract less jobs to the state;
- People won’t want to live here;

#### National:
- Companies are allowed to pollute the air for profit; outsourcing to other countries for food products;
- Contaminated food or goods from other countries; diseases;

#### Global:
- Ice glaciers melt;
- Natural disasters; more diseases;
- Dangerous heat waves and extreme drought.
### Ripple Effect

**Student Worksheet**

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1. 

2.  

3.  

4.  

Diagram:

- Arrows indicating the ripple effect expanding outward.
1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

Ripple Effect
Student Worksheet

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