

SAVING OUR HOME.

I never cared about the Earth. All the ads and essays preaching the death of the planet seemed like a crazy concept conspiracy theorists had come up with. However, writing this essay made me dig deeper. I became fascinated by the resilience of the Earth and how the weather, like a grumpy old man, seems to snap back at us after years of being ignored.

The Earth is tired—like a mother who sacrifices everything for her children yet gets nothing in return. The Earth gives us life, yet what do we give her in return? Deforestation. Pollution. We destroy the Earth with every plastic we throw into water bodies, every tree we cut down and every time we disregard our environment. In essence, we are biting the hand that feeds us.

As youths, we must restore the Earth. Generations have gone by, taking from the earth and giving nothing back. However, we can close that chapter, and start one where the earth is not begging for scraps and leftovers, but instead, is cared for and appreciated.

The truth is, we are not saving the planet, no matter what anyone says—we are saving *ourselves*.