

## Paragraph a Week

### *I Know the Solution*

- R**ole: An orange peel *or* a tin can
- A**udience: Your community
- F**ormat: Anonymous letter to the editor
- T**opic: Living conditions at the county landfill

If you're like me, you rarely stop to think about what happens to all that trash you set out by the curbside every week. Only if we happen to be there do we notice the workers who stop to pick it up. Even then we probably don't even give them a second glance. Talk about feeling unappreciated! Ouch!

In case you haven't thought about it, your weekly trash tells a lot about you as a person. It can reveal whether you're neat or sloppy! Uh-huh! If all you're paper wads are yellowed and brittle, then we know it's been years since you cleaned your bedroom. And just by looking at your trash we can tell what kind of food you eat, whether you are a junk food addict or a health nut, whether you eat fruit or candy bars, and whether you even eat at all! Trash can also tell us what brand of clothes you wear--Nikes, Born, Levis or Lees, hip-huggers or high-waisted.

This week your writing topic takes you right to the source...your trash! And aren't you in for the surprise of your life...your new home, the county landfill! Yes, you've been eaten, emptied or tossed then discarded as if you never existed at all! Now you find yourself in new surroundings and it's not a luxury condominium either! How do you feel about that? Are you happy, ready for a new adventure? Or sad, miserable, and lonely? Whatever your feelings, you are to write about it. You will write to the local newspaper and let your feelings be known for once! You can't keep your emotions in check...*you just have to let it out!*

You need to write at least three well-constructed paragraphs. The first paragraph should tell the reader about your trip. How did it feel? Did it hurt? Were you in that big plastic trash bag alone or did you have company? The second paragraph should tell us about your new home. What's it like? Is it clean, wide and spacious or dirty and crowded? Your final paragraph should offer a solution to the "trash mess" that you find yourself in. Should we recycle or not? Remember, orange peels decompose, tin cans do not.

### **CHECKLIST:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ My finished piece has a topic sentence, reasons, details, or facts with examples.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have a "pack a punch" conclusion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I revised and edited my work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am satisfied with the finished product.

**REFLECTION:** How could I improve my writing?

