



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

GRADES 9-12 | LESSON 11

STUDENT JOURNAL

MORE THAN JUST TRASH

ABOUT THIS JOURNAL: When Austin says, “It’s just a little trash,” he’s not unusual — most people think of litter as a minor, victimless act. This journal asks you to look at that assumption from three directions: The safety data, the law and the question of what it means to take pride in a shared space. By the end, you’ll know whether you’re more like Austin at the start of the video or Austin at the end.

REFLECTION PROMPTS

PROMPT 1

Before this lesson, did you think of road litter as a safety issue? Litter causes more than 50,000 crashes per year — which means someone is getting hurt because of a bag someone else threw out a window. Has your view of littering changed? If so, what specifically changed it? If not, why not — and what would it take to change it? Be honest.

PROMPT 2

Jenna tells Austin: “Have some pride in where you live. Don’t junk it up.” Do you agree with her? Is pride in your community a strong enough reason not to litter — or do people need laws and fines to change their behavior? Think about your own community: Is there a place near your school or home where litter is a regular problem? What would it take to change that?

PROMPT 3

Austin picks up the bag at the end of the video — a stranger’s trash, on a public sidewalk, that he had nothing to do with. Have you ever done something like that? Have you ever wanted to and decided not to? What stops people from acting in those moments — and what gets them to go first? Connect your answer to the concept of diffusion of responsibility from this lesson.

MY COMMITMENT

MY LITTER COMMITMENT: