

Haddonfield Civic Association
PO Box 323 | Haddonfield, NJ 08033
HaddonfieldCivic.com

Bradshaw Literary Award 2022 Prompt

What you do in Haddonfield matters to the world. In what ways have your past experiences, interests and passions led you to engage in our community? What have you learned and how does our town, Haddonfield, benefit from your engagement?

Alexis Hochgertel Bradshaw Literary Award 2022 Winner

After taking AP Environmental Science at HMHS, I have become a very active environmentalist in the community and a leader of the Environmental Club. I now recognize the importance of doing your part in the community and the world in order to be a globally responsible citizen. I had the opportunity to conduct a research project for AP Research on a topic of my choice that I was passionate about, so I chose to focus on environmental issues.

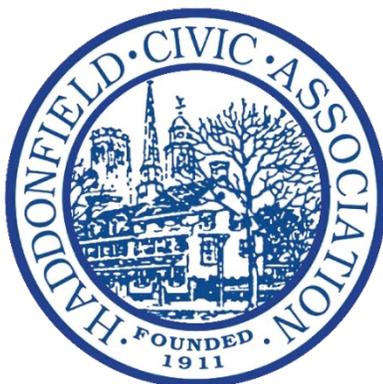
Due to the fact that I know first-hand the impact environmental education can have on a person, I decided to focus my research project on how environmental education impacts students' decisions. Instead of analyzing the environmental education that already exists, I decided to create my own lessons about the effects of climate change and how one can reduce their carbon footprint. I presented this lesson to 15 elementary school classes throughout Elizabeth Haddon, Tatem, and Central Elementary School with third, fourth, and fifth grade classes. I wanted these young students to have tangible examples of how their actions matter and to show them that

environmental learning is fun, so I made my lessons very Interactive and played games with them.

The premise of my experiment was to hopefully get the students to make more environmentally friendly decisions which could be measured by their carbon footprint. Overall, this was a very rewarding experience for me because got to return to the places where I began my education in Haddonfield and was helping to teach the next generation of students something I am passionate about and find very meaningful. In my lessons, I emphasized the fact that any small action that the students did made a difference and encouraged them to come up with their own solutions and action plans to reduce their carbon footprint; young children are the only hope for the future health of the environment because they will be the ones driving Innovation for new solutions to address global problems.

At the end of my experiment, the students had clearly responded well to the lesson, not only based on their positive feedback, because they had reduced an additional 2484 pounds of carbon dioxide the week after my lesson compared to the amount of carbon their actions emitted the week prior to my lessons. Not only were the students able to learn something about

the environment, but I also taught them how to apply their knowledge to the real world. By helping these kids learn how to make small everyday changes, not only are they helping their individual lives but they are helping the world. Even small actions that are done on the community level can make a global impact. I tried to explicate that any small decision or action that they did would play some larger role in helping to protect the global environment.



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To find out more about the HCA, contact:

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