



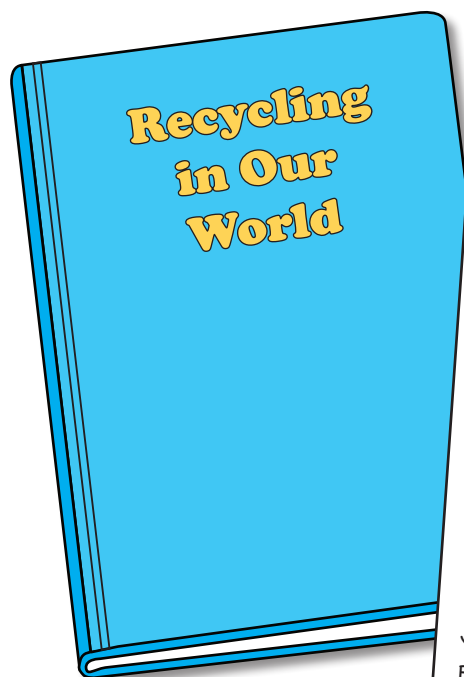
## Oh So Opinionated!

**Writing opinion pieces supporting a point of view with reasons; explaining how an author uses evidence to support points in a text; integrating information from two texts to write about the subject**

Get students reading and writing about textile recycling and other types of recycling with this activity. Check out a variety of library books about recycling. Give each student a chance to read at least one book; then discuss with students the benefits of different types of recycling and the types of recycling covered in the books. Students will likely find that, while recycling paper, metal, glass, and plastic is well represented in the books, recycling textiles such as clothing and linens is not covered (or not covered as thoroughly). Discuss with students how the books' authors use reasons and evidence to support particular points about recycling.

Next, challenge students to write letters to the book publishers and authors to persuade them to include information about textile recycling in the next edition of their book. Remind students to use information from the books and from the Textile Recycling Fact Sheet and infographic mini poster to back up their opinions. Who knows, students might be surprised to see what the next edition of the book includes!

**Teacher tip:** Display the letters on a bulletin board titled "A New Chapter: Clothing and Other Textiles Should Be Recycled Too!"



Dear Author,

I read your book, *Recycling in Our World*. I thought you did a good job of explaining why recycling is so important, and I learned a lot of important information.

I was sorry to see that you did not include clothing and textiles with the types of items that can be recycled. Our class is learning about textile recycling. I'd like to share some important facts with you:

- Any textile—worn, torn, or stained—can be recycled.
- The average US citizen throws away 70 pounds of clothing every year.
- 95% of fabrics can be recycled. But right now, only 15% are donated. The rest go to landfills.
- Recycled textiles are used for many purposes. T-shirts can be turned into rags for cleaning, wiping, and polishing. Wool sweaters can be turned into carpet padding. Even old stuffed toys can be turned into seat padding for cars.

I hope you'll take time to learn more about textile recycling, as our class has and add that information to your next book.

Your loyal reader,  
Emily