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Electronic waste is a very controversial issue in America today. With the growing electronic world we live in, e-waste is becoming a bigger issue, and it is necessary to decide what is to be done about the problem. I think recycling e-waste is the best option because it is a safer method, and is not as wasteful as simply throwing away the electronic devices.

        Many electronics, considered 'e-waste', contain harmful material that most people are uneducated about. For example, "flat panel monitors and notebooks contain small amounts of mercury " (UofA). These hazardous materials must be handled with consequential care, and when you properly recycle e-waste, they can be handled with the required care. If these things aren't taken care of with the right equipment and knowledge, it can be very dangerous to the environment. "Incineration of electronic waste releases heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury into the ashes and air", and "leaked mercury can accumulate in fish, which is a major route of exposure for humans to high levels of mercury" (UofA). These common mistakes can lead to severe health problems, including damage to the "nervous system, blood, and kidneys" (UofA). Recycling e-waste is easy to do, and can save your health and environment.

        Not only is recycling e-waste a safer option, it is also more resourceful and not as wasteful as simply disposing the electronics. “E-waste represents 2% of trash in American landfills, but it equals 70% of the overall toxic waste in landfills” (UofA) If these “commodities” were properly dealt with, the earth would be less full of wasted electronics, and more full of reusable electronics that will aid the nation. E-waste has a lot of value that people just disregard everyday. “One metric ton of electronic scrap from personal computers contains more gold than that recovered from 17 tons of gold ore” (San Diego Article). I believe if more people knew about this, more people would be trying to save their out-dated electronics. Think about how different things would be if the “112 computers discarded per day”(San Diego Article) were saved by recycling instead of just dumped in landfills, never to be used again. Discarded your unwanted items is just a waste of your time. You could be saving gold, aluminum, and electronics that can be used in different countries!

        Next time you get a new cell phone, don’t just throw your old one away; drop it by a recycling center, it is almost guaranteed to be used for SOMETHING. Whether it is full use by someone else, or getting it’s parts stripped to create a new type of electronic. Recycling is the safer and more efficient option, and you should never waste something if it still has torrential value.