

Grades: 9-12 Cover Sheet

America's Future: Planting Seeds of Sustainability for the Next 250 Years!

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary. This milestone offers a chance to reflect on our nation's history and, more importantly, to look forward to the next 250 years. The founders of our country had a vision for a new nation; what is your vision for a **sustainable** America? Being sustainable means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It's about balancing environmental, economic, and social well-being.

Your task is to act as a sustainability consultant and propose a solution to a real-world environmental challenge facing the United States today. Your solution should be innovative, practical, and designed to have a positive impact on a specific community or on a larger, national scale.

Choose one of the three areas below:

- **Policy Proposal:** Write a one-to-two-page paper that outlines your solution. Include a problem statement, a detailed description of your proposed solution, an analysis of its potential benefits and drawbacks, and a conclusion explaining why this is the right path for the future.
- **Drawing & Summary:** Create a technical drawing of an invention or system you've designed. Write a concise summary (one page) that explains the purpose of your design, how it works, and a projection of its impact.
- **Infographic:** Design a clear and compelling infographic that visually represents the problem and your solution.

Here are some helpful ideas!

-**Renewable Energy:** How can we use the sun, wind, or water to power our homes, schools, and cars without hurting the planet?

-**Waste & Recycling:** How can we reduce, reuse, and recycle more to keep trash out of our landfills and oceans?

-**Clean Water & Food:** How can we make sure everyone has clean water to drink and healthy food to eat without wasting resources?

Looking Ahead:

The 250th anniversary isn't just a historical event; it's a call to action. Your ideas have the power to shape the future of our country. Think critically, research thoroughly, and propose a solution that will help America thrive for centuries to come. What is your blueprint for a sustainable America?

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent or Teacher Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____