



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

This is my classroom. I will take care of it.

An extension of "Training youth to solve real-world problems"

Read **"Training youth to solve real-world problems"** (page 11, *What's Up* July 2020). The article shows us how it is possible for young people to solve environmental problems faced by their communities.

These youths worked together to improve the environment that they live in. They had great ideas and managed to change things for the better. This article is a good example of how we are all responsible for the environment that we live in. It also shows us that we have the power to make life better for everyone, wherever we are.

Think about your classroom and imagine this scene: there are packets of food waste in the bin. Smelly PE outfits have been hanging on the windows for days. All the tables and walls have been vandalised with rude remarks.

It would not be a pleasant space at all. Although this is an extreme example, it is something that could possibly happen if we do not take responsibility and clean up after ourselves.

1. In the space below, write a journal entry on why it is up to us to keep our classrooms clean.

Before you start writing, consider the following:

- a) What do you like about your classroom?
- b) Would you be upset if someone were to vandalise your classroom walls? Why?
- c) Why is it important for you to keep your classroom clean?
- d) Who will care for your classroom if not you or your classmates?
- e) Should we depend on others to clean up after us, even if it is their job?
- f) Any other thoughts?

Use the other side of this sheet to continue.