



Banning Plastic Bags: Improving your IELTS response

Read the example and think about how to improve it.

A charge was introduced for the sale of plastic bags last year. The intention is to protect the environment. Greenhouse gases are generated when plastics are made, and garbage is generated when plastics are not recycled. This time, I will think about this system. I don't think this system makes much sense. I don't think the above intentions can be fulfilled by charging for plastic bags. I have reasons.

First, The number of people buying plastic bags is certainly decreasing, but the actual amount of plastic produced has not decreased much. Even if a fee is charged for plastic bags and the number of purchasers decreases, bags for throwing away garbage are necessary, so plastics are used according to the purpose.

Second, From an environmental protection point of view, making eco bags is less environmentally friendly than making plastic bags. Plastic bags are generally used only once, but eco bags made of cloth or cotton are recommended to be reused. Therefore, if we regularly repurchase eco bags for fashion or other reasons, the burden on the environment will not end.

Third, Besides plastic bags, there are many other plastic products that need to be reduced and can be easily reduced. For example, PET bottles are true of it. PET bottles are produced much more than plastic bags. We can expect much better results with this approach.

However, the policy of reducing plastic products is not in itself wrong. I am not against charging for plastic bags, but I think that we should take a broader perspective and work out various countermeasures.

How can you improve the writing?

Try to be clearer in contrasting the arguments:

... but ...
Even if ...
Actually
Not only

Although ...,
Despite ...
so many
Not simply

Additional information to support idea

The battle to fight ...

Carbon footprint

Use of fighting as a metaphor

Amount of carbon released into atmosphere from products you use

Recently, a charge was introduced on the sale of plastic bags last year. *The intention by the government was to encourage customers not to use these plastic bags* and thereby help protect the environment. *Plastic bags are a problem* as greenhouse gases are generated when plastic is made, and extra garbage results when plastic is not recycled. We need to reduce the use of plastic but this system does not seem to make much sense.

First, **although** the number of people buying plastic bags is certainly decreasing, the **actual** amount of plastic produced has not decreased much. **Despite** a fee being charged for using plastic bags which has resulted in a reduction in the number purchased, plastic bags are still being bought specifically to throw away garbage and so plastic is **still** being used in the same way.

Second, from an environmental protection point of view, using eco-bags is **actually** less environmentally friendly than buying a plastic bag each time. Plastic bags are generally used only once **but** eco-bags made of cloth or cotton have a larger carbon footprint and have to be reused a lot more. **And so**, if we purchase an eco-bag for environmentally conscious or fashionable reasons, the burden on the environment *will not be resolved but possibly made worse*.

Finally, we should **not simply** concentrate on reducing plastic bags. There are **so many** other plastic products that **also** need to be considered. **For example**, plastic bottles or food packaging at supermarkets *are also a massive concern*. **In fact**, plastic used to make bottles is much more than to make shopping bags. **And so**, to be more effective in the battle to fight climate change, *we must think about the bigger picture*.

However, the policy of reducing plastic products is **not** in itself wrong. I am not against charging for using plastic bags **but** we should take a broader perspective and consider various countermeasures to reduce our carbon footprint.