

## Husky Compact Reflection: Act with Personal Integrity and Civic Responsibility

Michelle K. Tryba

In connection with the poster “A possible solution to decrease excessive single use bag waste”.

The dimension of Our Husky Compact that is the most relevant to my project is Act with Personal Integrity and Civic Responsibility. My project requires people to reflect on their plastic/paper bag usage and how that affects their surroundings. Additionally, this may lead to a person becoming more self-aware on their waste production and help them to think of responsible ways to decrease wastefulness, creating a sense of empowerment. It is not uncommon to see plastic bags drifting across the road or caught in the branches of trees. This can be unsightly but there is a simple solution. If people decrease their plastic/paper bag usage, they will in turn decrease waste. Less waste can lead to a healthier community and environment. Requiring people to pay for each plastic or paper bag they use is one incentive to decrease or cease their usage. Relating this to another dimension of Our Husky Compact, Think Creatively and Critically, people will have to reason with themselves if it is worth paying the fee or if they want to avoid it. Some may become creative, finding ways to reuse their plastic or paper bags, in order to justify the fee. Some may start using reusable bags as one way to get around paying the fee. This project is research and survey based. It takes a lot of dedication to dig into research and pull information from multiple, reliable points of view, in order to get information that is unbiased and supported. Many classes at SCSU have required me to conduct research to write a paper and this has helped me become more organized and critical when it comes to gathering information. My many science classes have taught me to become more inquisitive and acquire critical thinking skills. The skills that I have acquired during my time here at SCSU helped me apply creativity and critical thinking when it came to conducting this project. The survey I conducted brought about many different points of view. In questions I asked, people displayed a variety of viewpoints on how they feel about plastic or paper bag usage and how they thought a fee for using these products may affect their usage.