

## Course Work Activity 6

Read Rathje and Murphy (1992)

1. What was “The Garbage Project”?

2. **Myth 1:** Ask at least 5 people (not in this class) how much landfill space is occupied by (i) fast-food packing, (ii) Styrofoam and (iii) disposable diapers.

<i>Component</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Average</i>
Fast food packaging						
Styrofoam						
Disposable diapers						
Total %						

“Of the 14 tons of garbage from nine municipal landfills that the garbage Project has excavated and sorted in the past five years there was less than 100 pounds of fast food packaging...”

If there are 2000 lbs in one ton, what is this 100 lbs as a percentage of the total?

3. **Myth 2:** If the number of plastic objects available to us increases every year why hasn't the proportion of space taken up by plastic in landfills changed?

When was the earliest prediction of “the paperless office”? Why does Rathje blame technology for increasing paper usage?

4. **Myth 3:** Why doesn't paper biodegrade in landfills?

5. **Myth 5:** Find data for the average Americans waste generation (pounds per person per week) for the last 10 years. Report your data as both a table and a graph, cite your source.