



Wonderful opportunity to visit with Ms Griffin and her 6th graders as they held a Socratic Seminar on Water Bottles. Corkscrew Middle School is a warm and welcoming school, and so were Ms Griffin's students. They prepared for the discussion, while Ms Griffin went over the guidelines - hold your paddle up when you want to talk and make sure you reference the source of your information. OK - we are ready to go!

Taylor began with, "plastic water bottles contaminate our drinking water with chemicals."

Amanda added, "the plastic water bottles are harmful to the environment and to humans." citing newscientists.org continuing, "they are made of plastic that blocks estrogen and possibly stunts growth."

Omar spoke up, "plastic water bottles are necessary even though they are not biodegradable, water bottles without petroleum are now coming on the market." "Plus he said that according to Storyworks, this water is needed where water is not accessible."

Scarlet thought that water bottles could be created from an alternative source other than fossil fuels. However, Donnie countered that the fossil fuels have only one purpose, why not recycle the plastic bottles and find other uses for the recycled material.

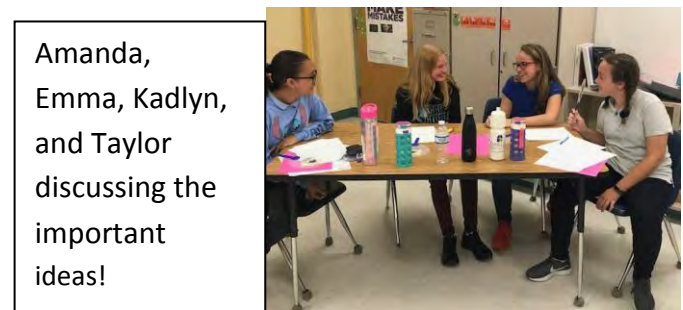
The back and forth discussion went on as students shared their research - including their use of Storyworks, a monthly magazine filled with relevant stories for students which was purchased when Ms Griffin received a grant from Champions for Learning (WINGS - the organization that provided the funds).

Michael talked with his aunt and uncle about this and Maria talked to her teacher. This found where it is being considered to make water bottles out of seaweed discussion led to many new thoughts and ideas. From another class, a student found that scientists are experimenting with using seaweed as an alternative to petroleum in the production of plastic water bottles. An intriguing idea.

Creative and critical thinking was evident by the students' research, opinions and lively discussion.



Scarlet and Omar with their paddles ready to share their information!



Amanda, Emma, Kadlyn, and Taylor discussing the important ideas!



Ms Griffin and her students. Ms Griffin emphasized how Storyworks is so relatable to students, at times including a child's perspective on an issue or event. It was crystal clear to me that these students were on the mark! Well done!