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Debate Speech – Fast Fashion is Killing Our Earth

Ladies and gentlemen, I stand here today to argue that fast fashion brands should be boycotted. The issue at hand is clear: fast fashion is killing our Earth.

Before we move on, let me first tell you what fast fashion is. Fast fashion describes cheap, stylish, mass-produced clothes. Every day, millions of teenagers showcase their outfits on social media. While the fast fashion market is rapidly expanding and its popularity is increasing worldwide, many of us are not aware of the damage it causes.

First of all, fast fashion creates a large amount of waste. The products are of very low quality, so people throw them away instead of fixing them. Thus, the trends are updated frequently, and constant clothing replacements are needed. People also tend to throw away clothes that are out of date instead of donating or recycling them. This creates an outrageous amount of waste each year. Worst of all, the materials, for example, textiles, take up to 200 years to decompose.

On top of that, the pollution caused by fast fashion is unacceptable. The fast fashion industry is responsible for 8 to 10% of greenhouse gas emissions globally. Why is this happening? Firstly, many factories are moved to places far away from town for low land rent. However, this increases the demand for transport and shipment which also worsens the environment. In addition, toxic dyes are often used during production and are eventually dumped into sewage. Moreover, these harmful chemicals kill sea animals and pollute ocean waters. The damages caused can't be undone and last for decades as these chemicals do not biodegrade easily. It is our responsibility to stand for what is right for the Earth and the environment.

Some people might say that fast fashion benefits us since we can gain higher self-esteem and confidence by wearing stylish clothes of our own choice, fast fashion allows us to buy clothes in low prices. Consequently, cheap products will encourage people to buy more, leading to overconsumption. It also creates a vicious cycle: we buy clothes, they get broken or become out of date, we throw them away, and buy new clothes again. Buying clothes might gratify us, but the gratification won't last long. When we feel fulfilled, we want more and more. Therefore, it won't benefit us long, especially when we don't shop rationally. Moreover, fast fashion encourages us to focus on our outer beauty, which is unhealthy, as it creates impulsive shopping and a wrong mindset. This is why fast fashion is not good for us.

To conclude, fast fashion is bad for both the environment and us. We must consider the consequences of fast fashion. The impact on the environment is negative and unchangeable. Ladies and gentlemen,

we must not be swayed by advertisements and peer pressure. We should stand firm and do what is best for the Earth. I strongly believe that fast fashion should be boycotted for good. Thank you!