



ABOUT

Garbage Land

Writer Elizabeth Royte invites us to follow her on a trek into the garbage cans, dumpsters, landfills, sewer plants, and refuse piles of our country. Sift through the piles of dirty diapers, plastic bags, and discarded wrappers and containers that are accumulating under the surface of the earth in our landfills. Royte asks a simple question: What happens to my trash, my recycling, and the stuff I flush down the toilet? Her answers are frightening because her answers are the same answers for each and every American. We are each responsible for creating increasing amounts of garbage that threaten our personal and our planet's wellbeing.

Elizabeth Royte

Ms. Royte's previous book, *The Tapir's Morning Bath: Solving the Mysteries of the Tropical Rain Forest* won the New York Time Notable Book of the Year award for 2001. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, *Smithsonian*, and other publications. Her work was included in *The Best American Science Writing 2004*.

The Challenge of Sustainability

Moraine Valley Community College is committed to understanding our impact on the environment and how we (faculty, staff, students and the local community) can make changes to have positive results for the future. Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As an institution, we foresee our sustainability goals to impart education for a sustainable society that fosters the development of knowledge, ethics, and the skills necessary to make choices and decisions that will enhance our quality of life without damaging the planet

"Pawing through every single item in my kitchen trash bag to quantify my output, I hit upon a garbage fundamental almost instantly: the worst things we threw out were the things that had once been alive. Organics rendered everything in the can loathsome to touch and smell...Food waste was making my trash heavy and wet. Leftover spaghetti coated the plastic break bags, eggshells dripped albumen on the jelly jars" (pp. 105-106).

for future generations.

About the One Book, One College Program

For thousands of years, humans have used stories to communicate knowledge about the world. Stories provide contexts for our understanding of facts, emotions, discoveries, history, relationships, and all kinds of human interaction.

For this reason, the Moraine Valley Library and the Moraine Valley Bookstore invite all members of the Moraine Valley community to come together to discuss a selected story in the One Book, One College program. Join us in discussing a selected story so that we may share knowledge across disciplines, exchange new ideas on useful topics, and enrich our curriculum in new ways.

Check it out at the Library! Buy it at the Bookstore! Read the book! Bring your views! Join the discussion!

For more information on our [schedule of events](#), call (708) 974-5709 or e-mail swanson@morainevalley.edu.

"Since 1960, the nation's municipal waste stream has nearly tripled, reaching a reported peak of 369 million tons in 2002. That's more stuff, per capita, than any other nation in the world...The increase is due partly to the increased population but mostly to the habits of average residents, who now throw out, says the EPA, 4.5 pounds of garbage per person per day— 1.8 more pounds than forty-five years ago." (p. 11)