

Escape from Affluenza Video Summary

Note: *This summary estimates the number of minutes of each video clip, noted in sequential order. Its purpose is to help teachers locate clips that may be most relevant for their use in the classroom. It is an estimate only. The clip underlined is strongly recommended for teachers seeking a brief visual that helps connect consumption issues to waste issues.*

- 0-3 min. Clip of Joneses' who have decided to try to live better on less. Includes history of symptoms of affluenza, the relentless pursuit of more.
- 4 min. Statistics on happiness.
- 4-8 min. Statistics on number of storage units in America, clip of a focus group held in Chicago where people brought products they purchased but didn't need (exercise equipment, food dehydrators, t-shirts, etc.), clip of transfer station (landfill) and all the products thrown away, clip of Sid Quarrier who created a list of all the things his household consumed in a 20-year period, clip showing the chain of production of a cup of coffee
- 9-14 min. Clip featuring Dick and Jane Roy and the Northwest Earth Institute, Portland, Oregon. Their family creates only one bag of garbage/year.
- 15-20 min. Clip of Ron, former manager at Microsoft who quit his job to pursue a career in acting. He also now volunteers extensively.
- 21-24 min. Clip of Fred, a former corporate personnel manager who was laid off and since that time has "found his right livelihood."
- 25-30 min. Clip of Ming, who saves resources and helps his community. He and his family buy organic foods and try to live a life according to their values. Statistic about one gallon of gas equaling 5.5 pounds of CO₂ is included in the clip, as well as focus on Emily, the couple's daughter, who is not happy with her parents' simple lifestyle.
- 30-32 min. Clip of David, who moved from a 2,000 sq. ft. home to an 800 sq. ft. houseboat. David

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- commutes to his job by kayak, and participates in a lunchtime discussion group at work focusing on the book, *Your Money or Your Life*.
- 32-34 min. Clip of Evie, a former hospital administrator who had a series of crises which prompted her to rethink what she really wanted in life.
- 34-37 min. Clip of Cecile, author of *Circle of Simplicity*, who talks about simplicity circles (support groups).
- 38-39 min. Clip of Cal, who spends a lot of time in a marsh area and feels a sense of wonder there.
- 39-47 min. Clip of history of the consumer culture, including scriptural references, collapse of the stock market, and advertisements from the 1950s.
- 47-48 min. Clip giving an economists' view of simple living and spending less.
- 48-52 min. Clip showing the Dutch's interest in quality versus quantity. Mentions the "halving" principle.
- 52-54 min. Clip introducing the Global Action Plan and Eco Teams.
- 54-55 min. Clip showing the Consumer Credit Counseling Service in San Diego and the Money Master's program. The clip mentions that some high school students now own credit cards. Clip then shows Tanya, the single mother of a daughter in the Money Master's program who is trying to make ends meet in her household.
- 55-56 min. Conclusion.