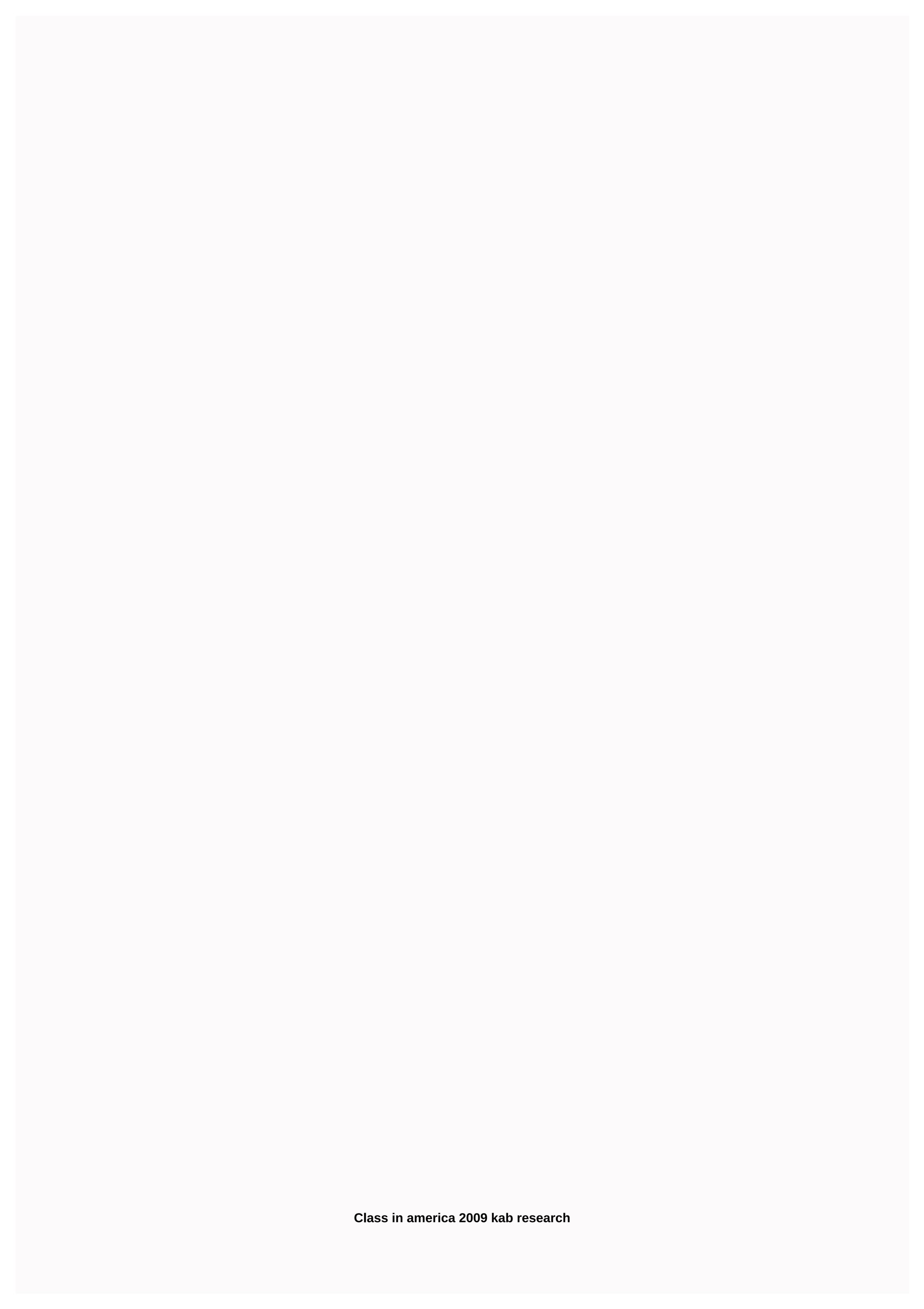
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In December 2009, Keep America Beautiful Inc. (KAB) published a national visible litter study and litter cost study prepared by MidAtlantic Solid Waste Consultants. Based on the results of this study, KAB developed bulletins explaining the extent and impact of litter on American life. In the coming days, the Hampton Clean City Commission will publish a summary of the bulletins, as well as information from the Hamptons. According to the study, the good news is that our visible littering pathway has decreased by about 61% in the last 40 years. The bad news is we still have a garbage problem. A 2009 study found that more than 51 billion litters are released annually on American roads - 6,729 objects per mile each year, 91% of that less than 4 inches. Largest category of all litters (38%) regardless of size, there is a category of tobacco products that included packaging and cigarette heads. From July 2008 to June 2009, Hampton Clean City Commission (HCCC) volunteers picked up 230,565 cigarette heads from Hampton driveways and public areas. On many heavily travelled roads, volunteers simply reported too many to count and picked up as many as they could. HCCC volunteers have been picking up and counting cigarette heads since 2000. In about 10 years, they have reported picking up nearly a quarter of a million cigarette heads. Volunteer Rolland Schattschneider is the leader of the movement. He started counting cigarette heads at Barron Elementary school in 2000 and is still counting them. Why is this a problem? Clean Virginia Waterways conducted a study showing that one cigarette head killed 80% of water fleas) in 2 gallons of water. The heads of more than 230,000 cigarettes picked up by HCCC volunteers in 2009 may have contaminated more than 460,000 gallons of water in our streams and rivers. Other large categories of junk materials on our nation's roads were paper (21.9%) and plastic (19.3%). Fast food, snack, tobacco and other packaging dominated litters over 4 inches in size - they accounted for 46% of the total. Most of the road litter came from motorists (52%), pedestrians (22.8%) and incorrectly covered vehicles (16%). Most of the road puppies were found at transition points, such as the entrance to businesses and bus stops. Researchers estimate that littering costs the United States more than \$11 billion annually. When presenting the study, the researchers announced that the cost of litter cleaning is most likely an underestimation, as the business share is estimated at more than \$9 billion, and it is likely that state and local governments will spend more than \$2 billion annually cleaning up trash. At a meeting of the Virginia Environment Commission in 2001, the Department of Transportation reported spending \$7 million cleaning for cleaning and contractors. Returning to the work of HCCC volunteers last year, they announced the removal of 6,466 trash bags (an average bag size of 40 gallons). That means around £194,000/97 tonne of rubbish removed from the hamptons public areas. Their nearly 10,000 hours of cleaning time saved the Hamptons about \$200,000 in staff time and matched five full-time employees for the year. Kab's research also showed that homeowners, real estate agents and property assessors all reported that the presence of litter in the community reduces the value of properties by around 7%. May is Hampton Clean City Commission Litter Awareness Month. Adopt-A-Spot and other cleaning volunteers all go out to keep Hampton Beautiful. Won't you help me? Spread the word that littering is simply wrong and it is hurting our community! And if you can, get some litter. The HCCC Litter Awareness Committee has set a target of 100 cleanups during May. safety vests, work gloves and trash bags) to clean, notify us, email us or call (757) 727-1130. To report the cleaning you did without our devices so we can achieve our goals, let us know, email us or call (757) 727-1130. For more information about America Keep Beautiful and its programs and activities, visit their website and download the summary of the study. Thank you To Philip Morris USA, altria company for funding the research, and thank you Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation for funding the resulting releases. Our media contact is debbie blanton, coordinator of the Hampton Clean City Commission. Government website CivicPlus® [{WidgetSkinID:16,ComponentType:20,FontFamily:Montserrat,FontVariant:700,FontColor:#fff FontSize:1.10,FontStyle:0,TextAlignment:0,ShadowColor:,ShadowBlurRadius:0,ShadowOffsetX:0,ShadowOffsety:0,Uppercase and uppercase:0,HeaderMiscellaneousStyles1:,HeaderMiscellaneousStyles3:,BulletStyle :0,BulletWidth:2.00,BulletColor:,LinkNormalColor:,LinkNormalUnderlined:false,LinkNormalMiscellaneousStyles:background size: 1. U.S. Department of Smoking Health Effects: Variable Cigarette – Chief Physician Report, 1981DHHS Publication No.(PHS)81-50156. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services; Rockville, MA, United States: 1981 [Google Scholar]2. Engeland A, Haldorsen T, Andersen A, Tretli S. Effect of smoking habits on lung cancer risk: 28-year observation of 26,000 Norwegian men and women. The cause of the cancer. Control. 1996;7:366–376. No, no, no. [Google Scholar] 3. Tang JL, Morris JK, Wald NJ, Hole D, Shipley M, Tunstall-Pedoe H. 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