

Dear Diary,

American kids are so lucky, because they get to drive when they are 16. But, here in Germany you have to wait until you are 17. I have been so excited about my upcoming birthday! I am finally old enough to drive a car. My mom took me out to show me my *new car*, more like my grandmas old clunk of junk! The paint is chipping off! It looks like someone took sandpaper and scratched it all off.

You see, the problem is all of this annoying acid rain. If it wasn't for it, I would have a perfectly nice car. But, the big bad factories keep polluting our air causing acid rain. They are burning fuels like **natural gas, coal, and oil**. This pollution floats up to the clouds and makes dirty rain! When it rains this acid rain contaminates our rivers, harms our trees, and chips paint off MY car. URG! We are our own worst enemy. The acid rain has already ruined nearly half of the Black Forest in southwestern Germany. It is so bad for our environment. My mom says it is because Germany is one of the leading exporters of cars, steel, and chemical products.

Well, maybe it is not *just* the factories' fault. Germans also own more cars than people of most other countries. This adds to our acid rain because of **auto emissions**. My mom tells me if these environmental issues in Germany are that important to me, I should take a stance and not drive. I decided it's not *that* important.

If all this is not enough, the United Kingdom has decided to send us their **air pollution**. Everyone knows how bad pollution is in London. In 1952, the Great Smog as my grandfather calls it, occurred. For four days no one in London could see in front of them. People could hardly drive, the crime increased, and THOUSANDS of people died. Unfortunately, you cannot keep air pollution in your county. SO, the United Kingdom's air pollution just floats south and adds to our acid rain problem. \*SIGH\* Oh well, I guess Germany's economy is more important than paint chipping off my car.

Yours Truly,  
Abbey