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Good morning, fellow schoolmates.

Everyone had had Coca-Cola at some point in their life, right? If you haven't, it's not recommended because soft drinks are really bad for your health. The Coca-Cola Company should be well trusted. The company should be ethical! Is that what you think? Well in this speech, I'm going to tell you about the unethical and dishonest practices of this product.

To start off, Coca-Cola was originally used for medical purposes. Back in the day from 1886-1929, cocaine was legal and was treated as a medicine. Coca-Cola wasn't invented using the coca plant in a drinkable product. It was just one product with its history and the name is firmly rooted in it. In short, Coke used to have cocaine in it. From 1900-1929 opinion turned against cocaine, but Coke continued to use traces of cocaine and coca leaves to maintain its flavour and trademark. Today Coca-Cola uses caffeine rather than cocaine.

Secondly, some of the Coca-Cola factories in Columbia have been accused of violating human rights. A group of people sometimes remove

workers through intimidation and even assassination. According to an organisation that investigated this claim, it was reported the group had murdered a total of eight people. This is just an assumption so it may not be true, but a lot of people think it is.

Let's go to a lighter topic. In 2006, Coca-Cola was sued for misleading consumers. It was accused of downplaying the health risks of sugary drinks. It was also accused of promoting the idea that obesity is caused by a lack of exercise, as opposed to what we consume.

Another aspect and concern is animal cruelty. How can this possibly be linked to Coca-Cola? What if I tell you that the company does animal testing. I can give you an example. They cut open chimpanzees' faces in order to conduct a taste test and force feed chemicals to rodents to test "caramel colour."

The manufacturing of Coca-Cola also contributes to environmental problems. Air pollution is no surprise since every factory produces carbon dioxide during the manufacturing process. Somewhere in India, the Coca-Cola factory illegally dug up more than six wells to make the soft

drink. The consequence of this behaviour is that they used up a lot of underground water; more than they were supposed to.

In conclusion, if you want to avoid unethical products you should do your research. Big brands can't always be trusted. The information I have just provided was news years ago so, hopefully, these practices are most likely over. I hope this talk has made you more aware of the products you consume.

Thank you!

