

Coney Island has its ups and downs, just like the waves that crash against its golden shores. I enjoy the fact that it's right next to a beautiful ocean, where I can let the sharp, salty smell encircle me. At the ocean, everything seems so peaceful and tranquil. Sometimes, fog embraces the water, making it seem like the sky and the ocean melt into each other. Not only is the ocean beautiful, but Coney Island has one of the best junior high schools that I had the privilege of entering, Mark Twain. Coney Island also has some very important and beautiful landmarks such as the Parachute Jump and the famous rollercoaster, the Cyclone. However, Coney Island has bad points that are sorely in need of repair. Coney Island is a polluted and dirty area. Litter dots the streets, a crumpled up newspaper, a dusty metal can, pieces of glass scattered across the sidewalk. Graffiti stains the walls of businesses and parks in good condition are rare.

In my mind, the possible futures for Coney Island circle in my head, including all the choices that can be made, every step that can be taken. In one future, I hear cars honking noisily at each other. Pieces of garbage crowd the street, and a teenager, a smirk on his face, spray cans the wall of an auto repair store. In the other future, I can see a ferry, its new white paint gleaming and winking in the sun's soft touch. The passengers yell excitedly as they catch

sight of the new Coney Island. A huge roller coaster stretches along the beach. The screams of the passengers rocket through the air. A tall building rises up and up and at the very top, there's the sound of forks being eagerly stuffed into a variety of foods. A waiter remains patiently as a customer orders several fancy dishes. This is all a dream, but it's one that can become a reality with a lot of funding and support. Should we leave it to slip away, out of our grasps, or should we snatch it right now, when the idea still hovers around our heads? That decision is for all of Coney Island to make together.