

Cafeteria Waste

Research Guide



Set a purpose: Read two online articles and a blog to gather facts and information about the problem of food waste. Later, use some of this information to create your own persuasive blog post.

Before reading: Preview this research guide by reading the questions. Preview the articles and blog by reading titles, captions, subtitles, and by studying the graphics.

During reading: As you read, make connections to your own experiences and knowledge, develop readers' questions, and make inferences about the impacts of food waste. Jot down interesting, surprising, or pertinent facts in the "Fact Collector Sack" on the last page. Answer the research questions as you read each article.

Food Facts: Your Scraps Add Up

http://www.nrdc.org/living/eatingwell/files/foodwaste_2pgr.pdf

1. Notice that meat and fish are the most wasted food groups. In the TEDTalk Marcel Dicke: Why not eat insects?, you learned that meat production is very inefficient. What inferences can you make about the costs of wasting meat? _____

2. In addition to the actual food, what other resources are wasted when food is thrown out?

3. Consider the tips listed for eliminating food waste. Select two and discuss the pros and cons of each. Could you successfully implement them in your home, or would they just be too much trouble? Explain.

4. Draw a diagram of the food waste cycle from “farm to fork.”

“Waste Not, Want Not” blog

5. What is this blog trying to persuade you to do?

6. Identify the two blog responses that do little to further the blog discussion. In what ways are these two responses weak?

Food Waste Basics

<http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/foodwaste/>

Follow the link near the top of the page titled "Source Reduction/Prevention." Read the sections on reducing food waste in the kitchen and reducing plate waste.

7. These strategies are geared towards restaurants and organizations. Adapt at least two of these suggestions to your household using specific examples.

Return to the main page and scroll down to "Why Divert Food Waste from Landfills?"

8. Read each of the sections, Environmental Benefits, Economic Benefits, and Social Benefits. Which benefit is most important to you and why?

Follow the link titled "Feeding People."

9. What kind of food can be donated? Where can you donate food?

Food Waste Basics

As you read, write down interesting, surprising, or pertinent facts. Try to fill the sack as full as possible because you need many research details to support your blog's thesis and arguments. More information can be located at: http://www.epa.gov/recycle/reduce_fd_wste.html.

Example: 40% of the food in the United States goes to waste.