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Bloomington High School South

Extra Credit Day 12

[Step 1]

This challenge was a great project for me, as it fits perfectly within the focus of the Environmental Club at my high school that I am the leader of. Our theme this year is all about waste (especially plastic waste) and “stuff” that ends up all over in nature. With this in mind, the idea of changing to reusable straws to fight the negative impacts of one-use plastic straws was a great way to get me along with my clubmates involved in a larger movement and create change in our community. We decided that in order to spark interest in other students, we would make a fun, engaging campaign in which we would sell reusable glass straws. We ordered 30 straws to get the campaign going and see if the students would be interested in buying them. We decided to put the cost as “donations over two dollars,” hoping that some people would donate more than the minimum of \$2. As we ordered them in bulk, selling each straw for \$2 would be making a profit. All of the extra money made was put towards funding other Environmental Club campaigns such as this one, one of which was paying for setting up a composting initiative at our school. I set up and organized groups of people to sell straws at each of the three lunches that are offered at my school. It was fantastic seeing how excited the students were about the straws! We got so much support from our peers and other teachers. We met our goal of selling 30 straws within one week of ordering them, so we ordered a second pack of them to continue our sales. The sales will continue far beyond the submission date for this extra credit assignment. I can already feel that there is change happening within our school and hopefully soon, or whole community and world.

[Step 2]

We do not sell straws on our campus, as it is a high school and is relatively small. However, living in a college town, there are many places where one-use straws could be obtained. I asked around a few local businesses and began a plan with one of the cafes that is downtown. However, this project will take a bit longer than the time allotted for this challenge. I will continue working with the cafe in order to make a less straw-dependent community, but for the time being, I thought about resources that many students use on a daily basis that could get the message out about going one-use-straw-less: professors. I talked with my dad, who is a professor at Indiana University about making his office and lab strawless. After discussing the workings of this project and the importance of environmental activism with him and the other professors and students that work with him, they agreed to pledge to go straw-free.

[Step 3]

This was done (see step 4 for images of the pledge and certificate)

[Step 4]



The flyer reads: Sip Sustainably, Donate at least \$2 to get a straw!, Support SAGE! (SAGE is the name of our club and it stands for Students Advocating for a Greener Environment)



This is the certificate that will be hung on their door to show that they support the “stop sucking” campaign and have pledged to make a change.

Pledge:

As the director of The Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University, I am officially participating in the The Last Straw campaign as part of an effort to keep my community litter free and reduce plastic pollution. I commit to offer a paper or reusable option to plastic straws in my workspace and to try to discontinue the use and purchase of plastic straws.

Signed, _____

(Signature)

As the director of The Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University, I am officially participating in the The Last Straw campaign as part of an effort to keep my community litter free and reduce plastic pollution. I commit to offer a paper or reusable option to plastic straws in my workspace and to try to discontinue the use and purchase of plastic straws.

Signed, _



_____ (Signature)

Fritz Breithaupt

[Step 5]

