

Don't Be Trashy

ella\_gingras22

Wachusett Regional High School

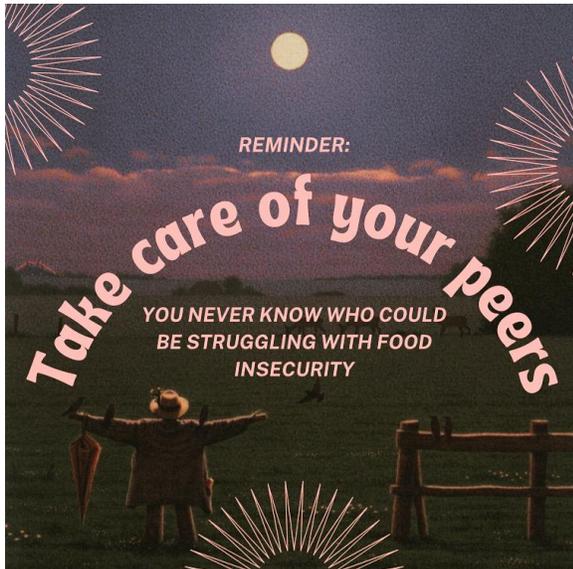
- Is this a problem you are aware of at your school? I go to a public high school so this isn't as much of an issue as we have lunches and breakfasts supplied. For a long time, I thought that there weren't many people going hungry in my town as most people have nice homes and are quite privileged but I have become aware that food insecurity can be a problem for even those that seem well off as we have many programs to combat it here.
- How does food insecurity interact with identities such as race, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status? What does this reveal about the intersection between food and justice? As many minorities have to deal with discrimination and unequal job opportunities compared to their white counterparts, they face the risk of having less money (at no fault of their own) and therefore may be at a greater risk for food insecurity. Women are often paid less for the same job and not considered for serious positions proportionally with the amount that men do which puts them at considerable risk for food insecurity. This is just in America, too. Many women across the Earth face threats to their rights which no doubt has an effect on their ability to purchase food for themselves. Black people have been set back time and time again as laws restrict their liberty which then restricts their abilities to gain wages. Generational wealth is some of the more profitable but as many minorities were not granted the privileges to succeed in this country, their children and grandchildren are now at a disadvantage. Food should be accessible and affordable to all. Young members of the LGBTQ+ community are often cast out of their homes for who they love. This causes young queer people to be much more likely to experience food insecurity. Those that have been lower income their whole lives will have a harder time getting into and staying in college which ultimately affects their chances at obtaining a decent paying job which could limit the food they are able to purchase for themselves. Not everyone has a fair chance and no matter how hard some people work, they will always be at a disadvantage due to how justice and food are not readily available for everyone. Bigotry in our society haunts even the most basic rights for minorities such as access to food.
- Research an organization on your campus or community that is working to address food insecurity. Tell us about this organization and how it supports students. **What can you do as an individual to support that work?** If there is no group at your school actively working to provide food access, try to find

one at another school/university. What procedures from this group could be implemented at your own school? Joseph's project is an organization in my town that delivers food directly to people's houses that need it. Sometimes attending a food pantry can be embarrassing as most people do not want others to know that they are struggling but by delivering the groceries directly to the people that need it, Joseph's project eliminates that aspect. It does not collect information on the people it helps and simply gives without any questions to those that need it. I can contact this organization and ask if they need any help delivering food or running a food drive. With such a large town, I imagine that they may need some help delivering.

Write a response of at least 300 words addressing any food issues at your school and brainstorm a few viable solutions that could be implemented.

My school, compared to others, does a great job taking care of its students that may be struggling with food insecurity at home. Every student is allowed a free lunch and breakfast if they so wish to have it. Taking home food and having free lunches allows students to take advantage of the food served while not being embarrassed about having to ask guidance if they cannot afford it. We are fortunate enough to have the budget to do this but many lower income schools may not be able to do this. On half days, my school provides free lunches to take home. With such a big student population, I imagine that there is a lot of wasted food at the end of the day. To battle both waste and food insecurity, the lunch ladies could package up some of this extra food and hand it out at the end of the day much like they do on half days. This would let students' parents not stress about making or affording breakfast and lunch for their kid. If students could take home extra food for their dinners, that would help out tremendously and ensure that no matter the state at home, they would be able to eat. If this idea is not probable, there is still the issue of the huge waste we create. Having a compost bin could reduce that waste and prevent the need for extra potentially harmful fertilizers that we use on our grass or gardens. Another possibility is to plant fruit trees on campus. Fruit trees could teach students how to garden and the value of growing their own food while also providing fresh fruit to those that need it. Healthy foods tend to be much more expensive so this could be useful to generations and generations of students to come.

Post *one* food waste-related call to action on Instagram that other students can join in on. Make it a simple, clear, eye-catching visual with an informative caption. Tag @TurningGreenOrg, @FoodprintOrg, @FoodTank, other organizations you find doing this work, and #PGC2021.





## Comments



**dont\_be\_trashy2021** Day 19: Unfortunately, food insecurity is all around us. Many people lost jobs during the pandemic which only worsened this problem. In your own community, there may be somebody struggling. It is important to be an active member of your community and participate in food drives or inviting someone you know is hurting over for a meal as one day, you could need these same things. Take care of one another since you never truly know what somebody may be going through.

Minorities are at an unequal risk for food insecurity because of stereotypes and unjust practices in job applications. It is important we take care of the most targeted members of our society and stand up against injustice when we see it! Unity is essential!

Art credit: Quint Buchholz (1957)

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