

Josephine Sparks
josephine_sparks
jgymnastsparky@gmail.com
Bloomington High School South



Rowan Stalnaker, another Project Green Challenge participant, and I decided to converge two friend groups-5 people- into one for a viewing of *The True Cost* at my house with halloween snacks and deep discussion. The main words after watching the movie was “anger” and “sad”. Simple words that hold a lot of weight for the content we had watched. We agreed that as kids, teenagers, there are some things we can do to prevent the injustices happening, but we will ultimately have that power when we have our own purchasing power. We discussed the injustices related to health, education, and profiting power, and how we play a role in that system by purchasing clothes without thinking about their origins. We talked about how where we live and what size we are limits what decisions we can make. How expensive brands would be if they had to be sized or tailored, eco-friendly, or both! We agreed collectively that the change had to be an agreement between the parents and the children to not purchase clothing that contributes to fast fashion, but that this was a discussion that needed its place in a conversation and wouldn’t necessarily pop up in a normal environment, which is why Rowan and I agreed the greener challenge was a great first step to the process of conversation.

I started out with the word “unfixable”. That was the first word that came to mind when I thought about this issue. You don’t have to be any given sector of society to contribute to this problem- which is why it is so important that everyone take a step in the right direction. The other two words are education and injustice. The two go hand in hand. When there is a lack of education, injustices are committed against those that are not educated in a way that could protect them. I do not buy clothes all that often, and give away or donate everything I get rid of, but what I *do* buy, I can research. For every company that is not being the best they could be for the environment or their workers, there is a sustainable accompanist waiting for our business, waiting to enact change. For something like this, an amazing idea to continue to share about injustices in the fashion industry and the effects of fast fashion, creating a social media account that was dedicated to looking at pieces of clothing and doing research on their origins would be fantastic. People could check the channel for clothes they were looking to buy and I could do the research for them on a variety of topics I now know the basics of.

I am the person asking the questions at the beginning of each topic. Here is a link to our full group conversation (about 9 min long).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4OjVdCqu38&authuser=0>