

DAY 15: FOOD WASTE

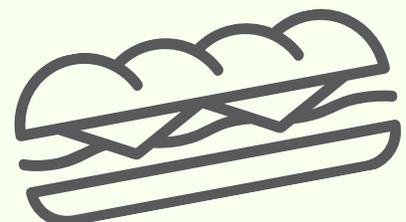
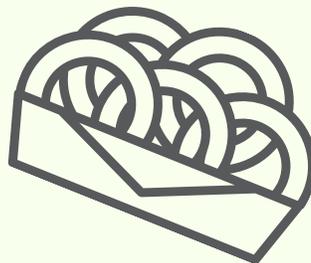
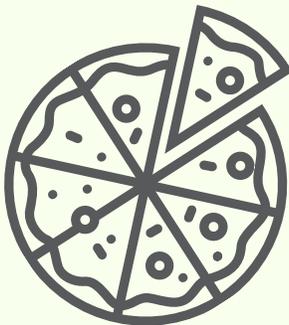
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Full Response



Food insecurity, the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle, is a phrase that's rarely spoken at Jericho High School. We, Jericho, is a school district that most others would call "privileged." Just last year, our school district was named #1 in US rankings. Thus, as you can see, most of our students do not have to face the problem of food insecurity. It is postulated that less than 1% of students enrolled in the district suffer from food insecurity. Although we, the Four Leaf Clovers, have never been personally affected by food insecurity, we do know an adequate amount of information about it. We know that this issue disproportionately affects rural, Black, Indigenous, and other PGC communities due to factors such as food apartheid and food deserts. Food apartheid is regarded as "the root of the problem with America's groceries" (Brones). Food deserts are "areas with limited access to affordable and nutritious food due to systemic racism, including redlining and gentrification." Redlining is systematic denial of services by federal agencies and local governments; which, in this case, is used to restrict access to communities with high BIPOC populations. Gentrification causes the same problems as it always had: by "renovating" neighborhoods, gentrification is kicking out low-income residents within that neighborhood by increasing living costs. Living costs include grocery costs, which, in turn, increases the chances of those people facing food insecurity.

All these factors reveal a deep intersection between food and justice. Ten days ago when we did climate justice, we learned about redlining and the disproportionate climate change effects on BIPOC communities due to systematic racism practices such as redlining. Now, today, with more information on food inequality, we've realized that there is a large intersection between food and justice. This is due to the reason that justice, or rather, the lack of justice, is used to the right to food to many communities through systematic racism. Therefore, the fight for climate justice to end systematic racism will help redlined communities facing food insecurity. The Food Bank for New York City's Campus Pantry Program is a nonprofit organization in our state, New York, that helps students suffering from food insecurity. They provide emergency food to students of all ages in order to help them make balanced, nutritious meals at home. We, the Four Leaf Clovers, can support this work by volunteering at their food banks after the threat of COVID-19 has passed. We can also help by making donations, making their job easier, and from there, indirectly help out students who lack the consistent access to nutritious food that allows them to live a healthy, active lifestyle. We can and we will help, that's a promise.



Response by Section

Is this a problem at our school?

Jericho is a school district that most others would call “privileged.” Just last year, our school district was named #1 in US rankings. Thus, as you can see, most of our students do not have to face the problem of food insecurity. It is postulated that less than 1% of students enrolled in the district suffer from food insecurity.

How does food insecurity interact with identities such as race, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status?

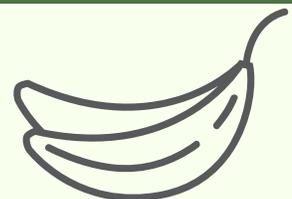
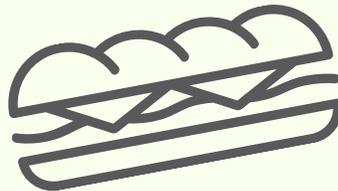
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Redlining is systematic denial of services by federal agencies and local governments; which, in this case, is used to restrict access to communities with high BIPOC populations.

Gentrification causes the same problems as it always had: by “renovating” neighborhoods, gentrification is kicking out low-income residents within that neighborhood by increasing living costs. Living costs include grocery costs, which, in turn, increases the chances of those people facing food insecurity.

What does this reveal about the intersection between food and justice?

All these reveal a deep intersection between food and justice. Ten days ago when we did climate justice, we learned about redlining and the disproportionate climate change effects on BIPOC communities due to systematic racism practices such as redlining. Now, today, with more information on food inequality, we've realized that there is a large intersection between food and justice. This is due to the reason that justice, or rather, the lack of justice, is used to the right to food to many communities through systematic racism. Therefore, the fight for climate justice to end systematic racism will help redlined communities facing food insecurity.



Local organization working on addressing food insecurity and how we can help:

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