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Reflection:

It's sickening to know that even supermarkets, places in society that are supposed to supply one of the basic necessities of life, are entangled in the web of institutionalized racism. It's not that food is hard to supply—fast food chains do it fine—it's that, at some point, fresh food has become associated with wealth. Why is it that supermarkets naturally seem to gentrify communities? Fresh food, produce, natural goods of the earth, have been manipulated by history into a privilege, as if not all of us have a natural right to our respective portions of Earth's resources. None of us have the right to forsake others' health in the name of profit. Society was so obsessed with manufacturing that we forgot about nature's wealth. Society then became so obsessed with nature's wealth and how they could use it in manufacturing that we neglected nature's health. Society has now become so needy that nature can no longer support all of us, and the consequences have been falling on those marginalized by society. Those who are least responsible. Even though we ourselves didn't create institutionalized racism and redlining, it is our societal reality and so we, as members of society, must collectively take responsibility to fix it. In my experience, even though my community has many supermarkets around, I think I always knew in the back of my mind that supermarkets tended to be scarce in low-income communities. When traveling, supermarkets were scarce everywhere except for well-off town centers. I think food insecurity in my community is most connected to higher prices at our local grocery stores. Cheaper prices are frequently found at supermarkets a couple miles away, so those experiencing food insecurity in my community might have difficulties in transportation, hindering their access to fresh food. Ultimately, we will only live in a truly better world once we learn to work together and support each other to fight these inequalities.

Action steps:

Community: Research into school's cafeteria food waste, and try to establish connection with local food banks to donate excess food.

1. Contact school officials and Sodexo partners for cafeteria extra food information
2. Work with school's green club and service clubs to contact local food banks for donation information and possible set up connection between school and food bank

