

Example of Exemplification Essay about Food

Food is something we all need-no matter our race, beliefs, skin color, religion or citizenship in order to survive. So why is it that food is one of the most common wasted items around the world? Especially when it's not the consumers who are wasting the most, but the commercial industry, when all the food being thrown into dumpsters we can push to force the big companies to have the food be given to someone in need.

Right from the beginning I started noticing the terms "food loss" and "food waste". What exactly do they mean and why is it so important to understand why they're important. I found an article from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that lays it out pretty straight forward. "Food loss and food waste refer to the decrease of food in subsequent stages of the food supply chain intended for human consumption. Food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from the initial production down to the final household consumption.

The decrease may be accidental or intentional, but ultimately leads to less food available for all... This may be due to problems in harvesting, storage, packing, transport, infrastructure or market/price mechanisms, as well as institutional and legal frameworks."

We as the overall more wealthy people tend to take for granted what all we have and how lucky we are. We are often very greedy. We-the people (typically but not always) in the Northern Hemisphere- are the ones most responsible for the food waste in the world! Approximately one third of food produced for human consumption around the world gets lost or wasted. That's roughly 1.3 billion tonnes of food and amounts to roughly six hundred and eighty billion US dollars in more developed countries and three hundred and ten billion dollars in developing countries. Each year consumers in more developed countries waste almost as much food as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa. Fruits, vegetables, roots and tubers have the highest rates of waste among any other food and make up approximately forty to fifty percent of the global food losses and wastes each year.

At retail levels or commercial levels, large quantities of food are wasted due to quality standards that over emphasize appearance. The companies don't put food out that is less than perfect because they feel it will lose money as people won't buy as much. The problem is although it doesn't appear as perfect as the next item it could still be edible and some people would still be willing to buy it. There are multiple options for the imperfect produce such as a lower price for those ones in a separate section, donating to a homeless person, homeless shelter, give it to the local food bank as they may know someone who might appreciate it and if none of those work, depending on the type of produce it is you can give them to your local S.P.C.A. or animal shelter as they may be able to make use for it. Anything is better than just tossing it in a dumpster for it to sit and rot and get thrown into a landfill. In industrial countries, more than forty percent of food waste and food loss occur at the retail and consumer levels with forty percent at post-harvest and processing in developing countries due to poor or lack of proper equipment.

Food loss and waste also have a negative pull on other resources such as water, land, energy, labour and greenhouse gas emissions that can contribute to global warming as all these are needed to produce the crops and produce yet they're becoming wasted instead of being consumed.

There are such large amounts of food being wasted every year around the world that if you could save it, no one would go hungry again. If just one fourth of the food that gets lost or wasted could be saved, it would be enough to feed approximately eight hundred and seventy million people around the world.

There has been a shift around the world towards using less food waste and how to encourage people to use less and help others out. France has been a leader in this. They have

quite recently passed a law to make it illegal for supermarkets (any store that sells produce for that matter) to waste food. It was unanimously voted upon and agreed to exist where it's illegal for supermarkets to throw away and destroy unsold food; they have been expected to donate them to charity such as a homeless shelter. Any store that is larger than four thousand, three hundred and five square feet has been expected to sign a contract with a charitable organization

stating that they will donate their unsold food to them. Failure to sign these contracts could result in a fine reaching upwards of an equivalent of \$108700.00 Canadian or two years in jail. Previously, stores were starting to douse food within dumpsters or alleys with bleach and other chemicals to "prevent food poisoning" to people who were trying to eat it. However, other people suspect it was done to discourage people from trying to dumpster raid and eat the thrown- out food.

Italy is following a similar approach where they're offering tax breaks when businesses donate leftover foods to charities. Although these countries are making great progress, Canada is unfortunately not currently following the same path. It is going to take Canada a while before they will reach a fraction of the same progress as France or even Italy. In Canada, thirty-one billion dollars worth the food gets thrown into landfills each year.

There is so much food waste happening around the world and it's sad to think that while we are wasting this food and taking it for granted, there are millions of people starving. Food waste is such a big concern because people are going without eating, the cost for disposal of all the food waste is so significant and the gasses that are emitted are causing more harm to the atmosphere than cars. As a society and civilians of the world, we need to make a much larger effort into protecting the environment and that can start by wasting less food.

