

**YOUNG VOICES MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
**ISTATION'S FIRST ANNUAL**  
**NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST**

A lot of things matter to me that I care about. Food and water matters to me the most. People need food and water to survive. Some people can't afford water or are unable to get clean water. With food there is the same issue, there are harmful chemicals in food that affect people in many ways.

If food and water inequality is resolved many adults and kids around the world can have better food and water, than they currently live with. There shouldn't be people who are not able to get basic human necessities like food and water because of race, wealth, or where they live. We need to be able to give decent food and water to people who are not able to afford it. If you have money then you are able to spend it on food and water. On the other hand if poorer people have no money or are not able to get food and water the government and the wealthy could be more empathetic and provide the much needed clean water and chemical free food to them.

There are children who live in cities, and countries who are unable to get water or food because the government just won't give them or their community the much needed resources (water and food).

I consider the inequality of food and water, since both are needed to survive, a very important issue. Many people have the privilege to access clean water and food over others. Wealthy people have an abundance while many others with less resources have none. There are governments known to give dirty water and food to black and poor communities. Homeless, black, and poor people are limited to food and water access because of their lack of money. I also care passionately about this cause, since I have seen homeless people have little to nothing, digging in garbage cans and eating off the street for food or drink.

I have gone through the experience of having nothing and being poor for a certain time of my life so I know how it feels. When I was around six years old, my family and I sometimes went nights without food or money for the next day. That is a time I won't soon forget. It is why I want to help in the cause to help others who are experiencing "*going without*" the basic necessities of food and water.

In 2014, Flint, Michigan experienced the distress and illness caused by the city which switched its drinking water from Detroit to the Flint River to be a cost-saving measure. The water was contaminated with lead. An article I read said that “inadequate treatment and testing of the water resulted in a series of major water quality and health issues for Flint residents. Those issues were chronically ignored, overlooked, and discounted by government officials even as complaints mounted that the foul-smelling, discolored, and off-tasting water piped into Flint homes for eighteen months was causing skin rashes, hair loss, and itchy skin” (Natural Resources Defense Council, 2018).

Rick Snyder (former Michigan governor) “is accused of ignoring, denying or covering up problems that left thousands of children exposed to toxic lead in their drinking water for about 18 months. Flint, a community of 100,000 people, largely poor and minority, unable to drink from their taps because of the toxic water, is one of the biggest environmental justice disasters known in this country” (Washington Post, 2016).

I am going to change this food and water inequality by making money and giving it to the people who need it. I am going to make money by doing YouTube. “A YouTube channel can receive up to \$18 per 1000 ad views” (Influencer MarketingHub). This means that for every 1000 video views, the channel will receive somewhere between \$3 and \$5” (ViewsReviews, 2021). During my research I found that a YouTuber can make about \$5 for every 1,000 video views.

While making YouTube videos and getting the money I get from my viewers I can get enough money to give to the homeless, poor, and black communities that need them. I am also going to give money to charity so we can make this world better faster. Charities that I will donate to are Feeding America, Direct Relief, and World Vision International. I will give the money I make to help people who need clean water and chemical free food.

In conclusion, we need to fix food and water inequality and make sure we give clean and chemical free food to kids, poor, and black communities.