

Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

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Summary:

“There is enough for everyone’s need but not enough for anyone’s greed”

M. Ghandi.

This essay is a brief synopsis of some of the biggest problems our world faces today which can be stopped by political, economical, cultural and social awareness.

Everything comes down to: sustainable development, a concept utilized more and more but which needs global implementation. Food and energy are basic needs which change nature and human activity in relation to nature.

Environment includes open systems that leave open doors either for damaging it or for improving its constant demand for balance.

Essay:

Let’s look around us, beyond the walls of our house, beyond our streets, cities, countries; we see the same a sky above us and the same ground beneath us and the environment we live in. We are not different from Nature; we are part of it and depend on it fully. We are lucky to have such a nurturing planet that for tens of thousands of years provided us what we needed until we became too greedy. Today’s food and energy crisis are the repercussions all of us are paying for forgetting that Nature will live on but we will not, if we don’t protect our own home.

Facing today’s constant demographic explosion the planet’s sustainability is diminishing. In 12 years the population of our planet grew by 1 billion out of which more than 850 million people are starving. Every year 1.9 million tones of wheat rice and maize are produced, that feed 5 billion people. However, in developed countries the phenomenon of over production leads to the burning of crop on for economical reasons. In contrast to the malnutrition phenomenon, obesity is present within more than 1 billion people worldwide due to a lack of food variety. Food diversity is highly important for livelihood and food quality. It also goes against losing the variety of crop plants and animals. Growing the same type o crops leads to uniformity which makes crop vulnerable to pests and disease and finally hunger. This caused several disasters in the world including the historical famine from Ireland in the 19th century.

Energy crisis, another challenge that our planet has to deal with, became a stringent problem after realization that 87% of the energy used today are fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas) which all are non-renewable energy sources their consumption growing exponentially every year since the Industrial Revolution. Exploiting them includes several technologies that imply a lot of damage done to the Planet leaving sterile wastelands and pollution of the biotope and biocenosis. Energy is wasted also due to eco-unfriendly lifestyle usually seen in developed countries that act like energy-vampires. For example Canada uses 300 gigajoules per year per person in contrast with the poorer countries that use less then 1 gigajoule under the same conditions.

A major challenge for today’s policies it’s how to prevent the environment degradations without cutting from living standards and sparing reserves for future generations. This is called sustainable development, it sound extremely good but it implies a lot of hard work.

It is said that if “there is a will there is a way” and the way has to create an equilibrium between the existing resources and our consumptions because everything in Nature is about balance. All the answers to this crisis lay in our social, economical, cultural and diplomatic activities.

The food crisis seemed to have an answer in the Green Revolution from the 90s which was introducing new plant hybrids that were expected to give high quality and rich harvests, but this also led to super-production. In attempts to resolve one crisis it created a bigger one because the economical implications were more imposing.

Durable sustainable agriculture has to concentrate on a low chemical input, and know the environmental factors which affect plant growth. That is why it is preferable to grow plants in their original harvest areas where they were first acknowledged. Governments should encourage agricultures to develop in the local market rather than have a high number of imports. Standardized food is a very restrictive concept that leads to precious food waste. In the 21st century food waste seems like an impossible concept for such a devolved society which, however, still takes place everyday. Also, governments could encourage or even impose shipping the over produced food to less developed countries and under nourished local communities.

Amidst the development process food should not lose, under any circumstances, its nutritional value. The loss of this value is in itself a crisis, economically wise people are obligated to pay more for natural organic food rather than genetically modified food which is neither moral nor ethic, considering the fact that it is a basic human right to eat the food nature gives you as it is.

The animal products that are also affected by standardized food and industrialism. Food which is hazardous for human is also hazardous for animals resulting in a less natural and nourishing food quality.

In conclusion the food crisis can be overcome by the development of laws that encourage local agriculturers and farmers to keep producing, and for the big food companies to adopt new methods of production and monitoring the food processing in order to respect nature and people not only as consumers but also as human beings.

We live in a society that is based also on energy that supplies our every day movement this is the reason why there is a need of finding safe and renewable or constant energy sources. In the last decade people’s awareness has grown in relation to the finite amount of fossil fuel available for human consumption. Renewable energy consists of only 13% worldwide which does not make it a main energy source. Industry consumes the largest amount of energy which makes it hugely responsible for product quality over quantity and waste control. Modernizing the industrial process prevents leaks of energy and pollution. Energy from the Earth’s forces is the answer to tomorrow’s energy demands, using: wind, solar power, geothermal energy and wave power can create a “perpetuum mobile” and assure a sustainable development of life.

Human demand for responsible decisions concerning Nature makes it difficult for governments to ignore impending problems.

Every person by being aware of the essential role nature has in their life and by making small changes in their lifestyle can mend the damage done generations before, influence today’s diplomatic decisions on environmental issues, insure the existence of a brighter and safer future.