

## Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

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### Summary:

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How hard is to understand and confront global warming, the food and energy crisis? Facing that is difficult because you have to sacrifice a few things. This essay tells that is important to understand that people have to sacrifice the way they live their life and their ideas about life when they face the crisis. But that is the point: everybody, and first of all those who rule the economy have to understand and face this situation. And then change it.

### Essay:

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I was five years old when one kid in the kindergarten pulled my hair and told me I was stupid. I wasn't sad about, it was just a normal afternoon, and – to be honest - I also told him the same. Only this time I started to think, how strange that I have so many things inside my head: I am thinking all the time, I have feelings all the time, and when I go to bed, I have colorful dreams – and the people around me know so little about all this. I realized that it is not possible for me to be stupid, because I am so much more. And not possible for that little guy neither. So I realized – and I was amazed about this discovery – that all the people might have hidden worlds inside them.

At that time I was really proud of the fact that I was living in a chief town of a county with extremely lot of people (almost 200 000 residents), and I also knew that the life here was really modern compared to the villages. You could see improvements everywhere. I saw the world really beautiful: full of yellow wheat-fields, huge factories, more and more cars, more and more colorful plastic objects. Well this was in Romania in the eighties: East Europe, communist regime, forced industrialization, poverty, the basic food-products on ration. But I still was a happy kid.

I don't remember when I learned that there are more than 6 billion people on this planet. I guess that was many years after the system change. I also heard that mankind does not live a sustainable life. I have to admit I was slow getting the point. And that is what I want to talk right now: how hard is to understand and confront this situation with the global warming and the food and energy crisis. Facing that is hard because you have to sacrifice a few things.

What did I have to sacrifice when I took in the weight of the situation? What did I have to give up when I understood that it is not possible to keep up the way mankind uses up the sources of energy, damages the environment, and increases the economic inequalities? To begin with I had to devote all those goods and possessions we started to have in the nineties, all those delicious, beautiful and glamorous things I was yearning for after I saw a lot of advertisements in the German television during the late eighties. (At that time we stole the German broadcast with a curved metal tube from some neighbors who already got a dish antenna from a relative from the West.) I have to support the national industry, I have to buy from the local farmers and manufacturers, and I have to withstand a lot of products which I like very much, because they are coming from far away or because they contains too much chemicals. Then I had to sacrifice my childhood dreams about going everywhere with a shiny car, and flying a lot with huge airplanes. Ok, I do travel with car and plane sometimes, but I don't feel too good about that. The most difficult was

to sacrifice the image of that developing, secure world what I had in mind. It is really hard to imagine that maybe your children will have a really difficult life because all these problems many of us still can't face.

The fact that I accept this situation influences my whole life. This reality has nothing to do with my older realities, my childhood one or my young capitalist one. Me, a 29 year old, now Hungarian girl with a quite low income and a quite nice, but nothing special life, I have to sacrifice a lot because of this new reality. And I understand that there are people who have to sacrifice much more than me. So you don't have to be a very bad person not to want to make this sacrifice.

So there are more than 6 billion people living on this planet. 2 billion of them eat very poorly, and 800 million of them are starving. Not only in those very poor countries but also here in Europe or in the United States too. They say the sixth perishing period of the Earth will be the result of human activity. There was no example in the historical geology for such complex system of global changes.

During the last decades an international understanding took shape about the importance of sustainability and actual missions. But we all know a few steps and some corrections are not enough. On behalf of satisfying the needs of all the people while preserving the sources of energy and the nature for the next generations deep transformations are needed. How much we know and how we are able to make use of our knowledge will crucially influence the circumstances of life on this planet. We have to know the processes, we have to calculate the possible impacts, we have to learn how to deal with this situation. We have to live a sustainable life, and we have to make a lot of researches to find better and better solutions. We have to focus on this question, all of them, every they.

But there is no hope for that if those who are in the most important financial places don't face this crisis. I'm sure that the future of so many depend on the attitude of these people. They have to decide to make their sacrifices; and those are quite big. They have to sacrifice a lot of income, development, and growth. They have to sacrifice the way they think about business and money, and even life. I don't know if that is possible. But I am sure, those who possess the most can make a big impact on the future of our world. We live in a strange world: if the big business holds together and decides to save the people (including themselves) they will have a good chance to make it.