

## Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

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### Summary:

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The essay maintains the idea that faced with a food and energy crisis society can improve its well-being by a change in attitude towards world and getting its priorities right. Selfishness must give its place to benevolence and concern, unanimity and cooperation must be established. Once united humanity must bring in the reforms needed taking all alternative sources of energy and food into account. Knowledge is of vital importance for determining the problems and finding the solutions. People must realize their strength and responsibility. We are answerable to the generations before and after us for the fate of our world.

### Essay:

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#### **Faced with a Food and Energy Crisis how can society improve its well-being?**

Since time immemorial history has remembered periods or moments of danger, difficulty, uncertainty. Crises have occurred on personal and social level requiring perspicacious solutions and immediate actions. Undoubtedly, though, the idea of a food and energy crisis is a matter of utmost importance. Despite its evolutionary development humanity is still vulnerable to insufficiency in food and energy and its biggest trump-card remains human mind. Just our mind gives us the advantage to foresee the crisis and avoid it, take due measures and cope with it when it is already a fact. Faced with a food and energy crisis society can improve its well-being by a radical change in thinking. In such a testing time actions are necessary, reforms required. Selfishness must give its place to benevolence and concern. Energies must be redirected from the consummative past to a creative and productive future. People must learn to observe and study more in order to have better understanding of their surroundings. Thus, society would be able to improve its well-being providing a better future for next generations.

First and foremost I'd like to point out that faced with a food and energy crisis, the first step to take is change in attitude and priorities. Caring only about one's own prosperity and living isolated from the world leads to a dead-end. Unanimity must precede reforms. Someone has said that "The only thing that would redeem mankind is cooperation". No one can succeed alone no matter his ability or capital. Only cooperation based on inner conviction can result in a real change of front.

After all the losses and ruins of World War II, people were determined to put an end to this international hatred and rivalry in Europe and create the conditions for reconciliation and peace. Once, just a dream in the minds of philosophers and visionaries, the idea of united Europe finally resulted in the foundation of the European Union. This was a

revolution in thinking, turning point in human history. Instead of rivaling your neighbours-get to know them, learn from them, see the similarities and respect the differences. "Unity in diversity"-the motto of the European Union clearly expresses not only cultural tolerance but also respect and friendship between countries. "Unity gives strength" and the EU has grown much stronger. Today it is the world's leading trading power. In 2007 the U.S. lost its seat to the European Union as the world's largest economy producing \$14.4 trillion in goods and services, while U.S. GDP came in at \$13.86 trillion. The growth of EU economy is a proof that vastly different countries can not only work together as a unified economy, but also flourish together. Whenever people unite in the name of a common goal the advance is remarkable.

A few years earlier people were alarmed by the ozone holes over Antarctica. The 2005 ozone hole was one of the biggest ever, spanning 24 million sq km in area. Measures were taken worldwide to stabilize the situation. Nowadays, with common efforts, Earth's ozone layer appears to be on the road to recovery. If the trend continues, it should be restored to 1980 levels. United we can change reality. Whether in environmental, economical or historical aspect we are capable of deciding world's fate. Once united in priorities humanity can proceed to actions.

Faced with a food and energy crisis, energies must be redirected from the consummative past to a creative and productive future. People should rethink wasting, stimuli must be found to direct efforts to a proper distribution of resources and spending within reasonable limits. Instead of three cars-one, not 5 LCDs but one. In 19<sup>th</sup> century the moral philosopher Adam Smith was concerned about the excessive consumption of a small stratum of society wasting its capital for various sorts of pleasures and luxury. He and other contemporaries considered this an extremely dangerous factor because it leads to stagnation of considerable part of the nation's capital. As a result special laws restraining excessive spending were passed.

These are the small things that make the difference. Excessive consumption leads to pollution and insufficiency. Fixing it would help stabilizing the situation so it's worthy the effort.

Another measure to be taken is stimulating small and medium businesses-producing 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world's production. Small farms produce far more per acre than chemical farms. The organic seem to outperform the chemical by 40-70%. Preferences must be directed to foods and products that are healthy, locally produced. New technologies must be integrated in eco-friendly food production, petroleum use should be drastically reduced. Scientists must scrutinize all opportunities for better productivity but not to the detriment of quality.

Alternative energy sources such as wind power, solar energy and energy of tides should be developed. The last one can provide the whole world with the energy it needs with 2 times excess! Nature has given us opportunities-it's up to us to find the way.

Last but not least, in times of a food and energy crisis it's vital for people to observe and study more. A better understanding of environment and mechanism of things gives us the strength to determine the problems and find the solutions. Knowledge is one of the most important aspects of coping with any kind of crisis. The lack of knowledge is often a precondition for it. Education should take the responsibility for teaching children and providing them with knowledge-in history, in science, in world. Being aware of the facts now is not enough-knowing the past gives us the experience of the generations

before, protects us from old mistakes. “We are the reason for the life of our ancestors”- we are responsible for our world and we are answerable to the generations before and after us for it.

The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word “crisis”-one stands for danger, the other for opportunity. In time of crisis humanity must be aware of the danger but most of all recognize the opportunity.