

## Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

**ID number:** 808

### **Summary:**

---

Nowadays the human being is immersed in several kinds of crises, but the most important ones are the followings: the global food and energy crises. The origin of these crises is mainly the greediness and ruthless consumerism of the human being. The consequences are millions of people starving to death and an increase of the level of pollution making the world an inhabitable one. In order to solution this present situation, governments will have to invest, especially, in education and in clean energies. However, the solution is not only in the hands of the authorities but also the citizens play a very important role in this matter.

### **Essay:**

---

Famine and pollution. Pollution and famine. One way or the other, that is not the issue. What really matter is that they two are the main problems humankind is facing and will face for the next millennium. The solution is not an easy task but it is, in fact, a situation that is of concern to everybody and, even more, to the developed countries.

Nowadays, governments and authorities from around the globe try to solve these problems through suspicious agreements and resolutions, be it either to improve the image of their governments (and thus gaining votes in the elections) or because those pacts are of their benefits.

Anyway, nobody can allow that millions of people starve to death everyday in the world or that the world itself becomes uninhabitable because of the gases emitted to the atmosphere by the human being, because of any reason whatsoever. In order to change that reality and so eradicate hunger and live in a world with lower levels of pollution, each and everyone will have to do their bit. The current situation presents just two questions that round in the heads of the persons concern about the problem: what has been the

cause of the present juncture and what can be done to solve it out? This essay aims to answer those questions.

First of all, the greediness and the ambition, in a wrong way, of the humankind have been the ills afflicting the present situation. As Balzac one day said "Behind every great fortune there is a crime". Currently, rich persons and those leading big companies try to amass big fortunes at expenses of poor persons. Nonetheless, the point is that not only the wealthy but also middle class people are the ones who look after themselves without caring of their neighbours. Today everybody is becoming more and more materialistic. This situation makes poor people be even poorer and suffer from problems like famine. In order to change that and so help to those who have less, everybody, especially those from the first world, must change their way of life to think and care more about the person next to them. Nobody can teach them to change but education has indeed a very important role in this matter. Governments have to invest more in education so as to people are able to have a critical thinking and then they will not behave anymore under the clutches of the ruthless consumerism and capitalism. Maybe capitalism is not that bad for society, but it, along with the economical liberalism of nowadays, is making the differences between wealthy and poor people become more pronounced. With a good education, people will be able to act independently and care about the persons from the third world who suffer these differences the most and who have make nothing to deserve it.

Furthermore, it is in the hands of the developed countries and international organizations to avoid corruption in the third world authorities. As a matter of fact, governments and authorities from the poor countries profit and allow that rich countries take their resources, letting their population starving to death.

In addition to the education as a way to reduce the differences between poor and rich persons, there are some feasible solutions as well. For example, a better control of the market in which the achieved achievements are not rewarded with more money (e.g. bonuses, etc.). That reflects the materialism humankind is living with. All that money generated in the market should be entirely donate to the disadvantaged people. Besides, in order to avoid that millions of people die in the world because of the hunger, the developed countries should let third world countries take advantages of their own

resources and be self-sufficient instead of being wrenched from their resources by the rich countries. This last solution might be actually an utopia rather than a reality because the current economic system is based on rich countries taking advantages of the poor ones. That is the reason why in order to save persons from the poverty, the economic system would need some changes; otherwise things will continue the same.

Related to the ambition of making money is, in a way, the pollution. The greediness and the materialism in the developed countries are making of the world an uninhabitable one. People consume and waste energy without worrying about the pollution going to the atmosphere. If nobody stops this air pollution, we can lose all control of the affair and then it will be very late. Anyway, we are still on time and it is in the hands of the governments to invest in clean energies such as solar panels, wind power or electric cars among others. Authorities can also carry on some campaigns to make people aware of the use of public transport and non-polluting transports such as bicycles, though, of course, authorities must improve the services of the public transport to get this target (e.g. cheaper prices and an increase in the number of them). Governments, however, should be the first ones socially aware with the cause. Countries rejecting agreements to cut pollution levels should be harshly punished, be it either the world powers or not.

It is, however, not only in the hands of the authorities to reduce pollution levels in the atmosphere. The man in the street plays also a very important part in the matter. All citizens must be aware of the dark future the world and its inhabitants will face if they continue wasting energy and polluting. They should use polluting devices and machines only when necessary: cycling in short distances instead of driving the car, do not use electric light when there is still sunlight and so on.

In conclusion, humankind has challenges along the future, challenges which must be resolved for the good of all the people inhabiting in this planet called Earth. It is not only the authorities the ones in charge of the solutions, though their role is the most important. All citizens, most of them from the developed countries, must *get down to work* to care more about the poor people and not to waste energy and polluting. It is, in fact, a rough and steep track but everybody has to *do their bit* to find and achieve the solutions.