

## Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

**ID number: 909**

### **Summary:**

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Due to on-going economic crisis the number of starving people has increased. It is a responsibility of developed countries to help those who need it. The help must be better organised, more elaborate and sustainable than it is at present. Instead of bringing food leftovers to suffering countries, we should better provide them with education, new agricultural technologies, encourage and enable them to produce food on their own. While thinking about new food technologies we should not strictly refuse genetically modified plants if they can contribute to improving or even saving human lives.

### **Essay:**

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“Mummy, I am hungry,” cried Auni.

“Yes,” replied his mum pushing his head against her empty breast, she stroked his little face and looked at the intense sun; her eyes were dry without any sign of hope.

Auni was a three years old boy, his father was shot during fights with enemies from neighbour troop; Auni was one of 55 million children under five which are threatened from malnutrition.

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January took place a summit in Madrid with food crisis as a main subject. Delegates of 95 countries gathered and discussed what was going on and what can world do. It has been estimated that about one billion of people living at this planet starve and that it has started getting rapidly worse since the on-going economic crises appeared. It seems to be a grateful idea to gather countries and try to get some solutions, but in fact, only speaking could never help those who need it. One of the conclusions of this Madrid session was an agreement that previous summit in Rome, in June was quite useless.

The greatest problem of poor countries is according to my opinion their dependence on developed world. We boost them, but in useless way, we give them ready food, they don't do anything except of waiting for it. But this is only short-sighted help, which is absolutely not elaborate. All this help is financed by charity organisations, which are supported by good will companies, with a profit. It has become very popular to patronise poor countries as a part of building company's image. Advertisements are often based on this; they donate to show how rich they are. The question appears: how warm-hearted their acting truly is? They do it for their own benefit, for their own reputation. Sometimes this system seems to be a throwing food leftovers to badly off as

to dogs. Once the company gets into a trouble, reducing the beneficent expenses is their first choice. Once on-going crisis started, a lot of companies stopped their charity supporting and more people in the world got hungry. This dependence could be fatal; therefore it would be more efficient to invest the same amount of money into building their independence. Instead of bringing them ready food it would be much better to teach them about agriculture, to enable their own food production.

I hear about a project organised by Czechs, which have built and run a secondary school of agriculture in Africa. They taught local people how to breed fish and others, how to grow corn also in crueller conditions. They said that the major problem they had experienced was to persuade those people to study. People expected getting food and did not understand why they should do anything. It became better, since locals saw first graduates living lives of higher quality. This passive attitude must be changed. We must show them that the best way of getting food is their own work and activity; we should be investing in their education. This kind of support is more sustainable.

Bringing education to impecunious would have also other effects. Educated people could educate others, would get employed better, knowledge of languages and technical basics would enable a transfer of technologies and the main point: educated people are worse to be manipulated, they do not believe everything what they hear and would be more difficult to get them involved into a war. As we know Africa is tormented not only by starvation but also a lot of people die in pointless wars which usually stem from misunderstanding among people. A lack of education causes racism and intolerance. Once a conflict started, it is always difficult to stop it; any death always brings the others. People do not fight for original reason any more, they avenge their relatives. Instead of investing into food technologies they buy weapons. The task of modern society is to help them to get rid of these wars, to hinder illicit trade of weapons.

It is obviously very utopian to believe that we could turn all poverty-stricken into farmers. It is just not possible, as we know; areas in Africa are often infertile. But sometimes the usage of modern technologies would make the land at least somehow fruitful. And that is how developed world could help, to show them how to use less productive lands. We have already invented plenty of irrigation systems; we know how to fight with parasites, which fertilisers to use not to harm humans or soil.

Recently, there have been invented many strains of genetically modified plants, which are capable to grow in brutal conditions or are resistant to many parasite species and are not toxic or dangerous to human health at all. Evidently European Union is traditionally strictly against using genetically modified organisms in agriculture and on the contrary it supports organic farming a lot. This is obvious, since all countries of European Union are rich enough to feed all inhabitants and European fields are plentiful enough to yield also without usage of genetically modified organisms or without any fertilisers. The organic farming is surely as a natural way of land handling the most sustainable way, because it keeps vital all natural ecosystems, but for lands where almost nothing grows, the usage of these aids could dramatically enhance agriculture. Developed countries already made so many fatal mistakes in agriculture using for

example very aggressive fertilisers or wrong medical treatment of animals, that we could teach less developed countries how to avoid these troubles, simultaneously we should not forbid anyone using genetically modified organisms if it saves human lives.

When using modified plants which would be resistant against some kind of bacterium, we could cause the extinction of this bacterium living in soil, which could cause the extinction of another etc. And thus we could change a natural ecosystem, but we would not make it toxic, that happens using chemical pesticides. However keeping natural character of ecosystem is important, it should never overcome human life.

Human starvation and food crisis is not a problem of developed countries, even though food is the basic human need, money which we spend for getting food makes only very low percentage of all our expenses. There are still so many other things we can afford, as long as we will drive cars, travel by planes, buy jewellery, branded clothes and entertainment electronics, a food crisis is aloof, far away from us. We do spend for all of these and we are somehow ignorant to the fact that a billion of people, a sixth of the world, have not got enough food after spending all they had. Every country wants the best for itself, no one considers all the people in the world as equal. We ought to change this, start being more responsible; we must open our eyes and take an action.