

Name Model Topic Food

Area of Investigation What are the implications for food for the humans who consume it?

Inquiry Path What ways should access to food influence national/international policies?

In a few sentences, write a synthesis of what you have learned from your research about this inquiry Path. This synthesis should provide an answer to your Inquiry Path, referencing your sources. At this point, you are NOT yet expected to provide your personal perspective. You simply give an account of your findings and analysis of sources. Draw from the Forming and Organizing Evidence-Based Claims tools you have developed for this Inquiry Path and use connecting words to help express the logic of your ideas.

National security is critical to a thriving society. Therefore, our policies, economy, and morals, among the other aspects of culture, must reflect not only the desire for security, but also promote it. Food policies that not only promote agriculture, but also access to nutritious food, enhance national security. How we feed our people influences cultures, worldwide. As Michael Pollan states in his essay "Farmer in Chief," "Rich or poor, countries struggling with soaring food prices are being forcibly reminded that food is a national-security issue." Yet the price of food is not derived in a vacuum, but in relation to policies that do not promote sound agricultural practices, but rather practices that produce unhealthy food and harm the environment. The President of the Gates Foundation Global Development Program, Sylvia Mathews Burwell asserts, "Many countries with impressive gains in agriculture and economic growth have not experienced the full benefits of improved nutrition."

Despite a global surplus of food, undernourishment and hunger persist for billions of people worldwide. Although we have more than enough food to feed everyone in the world, international trade policies and practices surrounding food transportation, production, utilization, access, and waste inhibit our ability to eliminate hunger. As Tristram Stuart points out in his TED Talk "The Global Food Waste Scandal," we deploy wasteful food production practices. For example, a major contributor to food waste is as he puts it, "the food that we decide to feed to livestock, the maize, wheat, and soya. Unfortunately...[they are inefficient animals] they turn 2/3 of that into feces and heat."

These food realities are evident in both developed and developing countries where agricultural practices resulting in low quality food lead to undernourishment. In addition to the health issues presented a western culture of industrialized food production, we are confronted by ethical, economic, and policy questions concerning the overall sustainability of these practices, which ultimately impact a society's ability to thrive and be secure.