

Student Example B

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Biofuels or Feeding the Hungry?

Throughout the globe there are many differences that separate different states, countries and continents, but one connection between them all is the food crisis. The amount of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition has drastically increased for the past several years, and will continue to increase if a solution is not found. Many factors such as climate, over consumption, waste, and increased population play a role into how the food crisis began. One of the more controversial topics on the cause of the food crisis is the use of food crops to make biofuels. The concern with this topic is that the food being obtained to make biofuels is taking away from the food source that could be used to feed the hungry.

Biofuels are produced to take the place of fossil fuels which are a non-renewable source. Typically, the most common biofuels are ethanol and biodiesel being used for the transportation of vehicles. The plant or animal material that is used to produce biofuels is called feedstock. This feedstock comes from plants like corn, wheat, barley, sugar cane, and even small amounts of trees and grasses. The process regularly carried out by the United States uses a corn feedstock, while the feedstock in Brazil is made of sugar cane. Although biofuels diminish the amount of fossil fuels needed, it puts a great deficit on the food production that could be used to feed hungry people.

There are advantages and disadvantages to the use of biofuels, but which one is more important to consider remains controversial. Biofuels are thought to be better than fossil fuels because they do not release greenhouse gases, which is better for the environment, and are a renewable source. Even though they do not release greenhouse gases, biofuels can potentially be harmful to the environment due to increasing amounts of land needed to grow crops for biofuel production. Land will be torn down to support the growing demand of crops ultimately leading to the destruction of ecosystems and soil erosion.

As the demand for biofuels increases, so will the demand for feedstock production. Corn is used in many food products as well as biofuels, and as the biofuel demand increases, so will the demand of corn. When the amount of corn needed increases, the result is the increase of farm prices. Due to farm prices being raised as it gets pushed through the food system, the retail price of food can also eventually increase. With increasing food prices, people who are hungry lose the opportunity to buy food because they can no longer afford it. As this chain reaction of increasing products occurs, families who are less fortunate struggle with buying less and less food each month. People not having the ability to afford necessity items because they contain corn, is an issue that should not happen.

The idea of supply and demand is heavily connected to the concept of biofuels, corn production, and the food crisis. Essentially the whole process of biofuels is directly connected to the food crisis with everything being linked together in a domino effect. This chain reaction will continue to increase over time if nothing is done to stop it. Some might think stopping the production of biofuels will solve the issue, but in reality it could

make things worse. For years enhancing the methods of biofuel production has been a major focus and to completely halt this industry would only hurt the economy more. Researchers believe the best solution is to set regulations on the amount of biofuel production. For example, if the company wants to receive the subsidy, they must cut down the production of biofuels (Garber). The idea of using nonedible sources to produce these fuels is being pushed now as oil prices and the food prices rise. With oil prices increasing, there is a major push for further developing the biofuel production by transforming the process from edible food like corn to nonedible foods like grass and algae. If the production of biofuels can be altered to using nonedible foods, they can be used in the place of oils and fossil fuels without hurting the market of food consumption.

Within my research paper I plan to use scholarly articles to gather information and statistics on the usage of corn for biofuel production. I hope to back up my arguments through the use of statistics taken by researchers. Explanations on the potential dangers, usages, solutions, and causes will benefit the quality of my paper for readers who are trying to understand the food crisis. People who may be affected by the food crisis, such as people struggling with income or farmers trying to understand the rise of farm prices, will also benefit from this paper. Millions of people around the world are struggling with the food crisis, and this research paper will benefit the lives of many.

Garber, Kent, and Marianne Lavelle. "8 Ways to Fix The Global Food Crisis." U.S.

News. N.p., 9 May 2008. Web. 2 Sept. 2015.