

## Source # 1

### Citation:

"Food Waste." *Gale Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*, Gale, 2025. *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/FQWLTU740020088/OVIC?u=flem98382&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=1cc8d500](http://link.gale.com/apps/doc/FQWLTU740020088/OVIC?u=flem98382&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=1cc8d500). Accessed 4 Mar. 2025.

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### *Before you can check off everything in the CRAP list above, verify the following:*

#### **When was it published? (Currency):**

This article was published this year (and it's only March), so I know that the information will be very current.

#### **Why is it relevant to your research? (Relevancy):**

This article discusses food waste, something that I am interested in learning more about. For my project, I plan on finding a way to educate others on this topic and maybe writing to an organization or public figure who could help address this problem. This gave me good background information on how common this problem is in the United States. It also offered lots of prevention methods that people on various levels can help with- from federal to state to local government, as well as for businesses and individuals.

#### **How do you know the author is an expert? (Authority):**

It does not list a specific author. However, I know that it is coming from a school database so the quality of information is good, and it is written for a high school student.

#### **Does the article inform you or sell you something? Is it biased? (Purpose):**

This article was written to inform student researchers about the topic and so it explains BOTH SIDES of the topic. All sources are written by people, and people have opinions and perspectives that shape their writing. But, this article backs up their stances with statistics, citations, and research!

### Notes:

- "Food waste" is edible food that is not consumed and is thrown away
  - Food waste is committed by supermarkets, restaurants, and individuals
  - About 28 million tons each year!
- "Food loss" is when food is damaged, spilled or spoiled and can't be used. Can happen during

handling, packing, processing, storing, transporting, or distributing food.

- Issue of concern around the world
- Individual households are mostly responsible
  - Reasons: improper storage, impulse buys, buying too much in bulk, not understanding expiration dates
  - Expiration dates are confusing- many times they are just not “best” and people assume that products are bad or not edible and throw them out
  - Produce (fruits and veggies) accounts for 34% of food waste in the US; consumers throw out 28% of what they purchase
- US federal agencies have a goal to reduce 50% of food waste by 2030
- The Covid-19 pandemic both caused more food waste (restaurants/supermarkets/schools had to throw out food when they closed) and prevented it (people made fewer trips to the grocery store, did more meal planning, and cooked more at home)
- Causes environmental problems: more trash in landfills; overuse of fossil fuels/water, etc. that is not used, deforestation for packaging, etc.
- According to the EPA, food accounts for 24% of landfill waste; decomposing food creates methane gas (a dangerous greenhouse gas)
- Preventing food waste: combats hunger, environmental effects, and climate change
- Composting sites are needed in communities so people have somewhere to put food scraps

***How does this article help you with your topic? What new information did you learn?***

I was given a lot of scary statistics that I can use to educate others. I learned about the effects that food waste has on the environment- there are many effects that I didn't know about! It also offered some ways to prevent and/or combat the problem.