WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

Imagine you have a stool with three legs, like the one to the right. If you sat on that stool, the stool would be stable. Now imagine if you lost one of the legs or maybe two of the legs. Would the stool still be stable? Probably not! This stool is a lot like food security. There are three legs or components of food security: quality, quantity, and availability.

- **Quality**: Safe and healthy food for the appropriate age group
- **Quantity**: Required amount of good quality, nutritious food from local, regional, and international sources
- **Availability**: Physical and economic access to enough food for an active, healthy life

5 FACTS ABOUT FOOD SECURITY & GLOBAL ISSUES

- Today, 1 in 9 people do not consume enough food to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.
- By 2050, there will be at least 9 billion people on the planet in need of food and water.
- In the next 40 years, humans will need to produce more food than they did in the previous 10,000 put together.
- 1/8 of girls and 1/9 of boys do not pursue or are unable to pursue secondary education.
- Globally, 1 out of 3 schools lack access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE FYI

1. **Networking** – engage with research and industry experts, state and community leaders, members of the NGO community, and your peers to discuss solutions to global hunger and poverty.
2. **Hands on Experience** – Participate, with your counselors and other Florida Youth Institute participants, in interactive activities on the University of Florida’s campus to explore research and work currently taking place in Florida to address global challenges.
3. **Global Youth Institute** – If you are one of the top students, you can advance to the Global Youth Institute. This once in a lifetime experience allows you interact with peers, like you, from across the nation.
4. **Paid Fellowships with USDA** – Students who complete the program are eligible to apply for a USDA Wallace Carver Fellowship through the USDA working in research facilities across the United States.

HOW DO YOU GET TO DO ALL THIS?

It’s simple! Write a 3 to 5 page paper about an area of the world, what’s happening in the area of the world, and a solution to that problem.
6 Steps to Writing the FYI paper

**Step 1:** Use resources like the Global Food Security Index from The Economist Intelligence Unit to discover more about countries and what is happening in the world. [http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/](http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/)

**Step 2:** Select a developing country of which to focus your research. A list of all eligible countries can be found in this packet. Then answer the questions about that country and a typical family.

**Step 3:** Research and then select a factor. After selecting a factor, answer the questions included in this packet, how does this factor affect your country?

**Step 4:** Using what you have learned, answer the provided suggestions to the country on how to improve its citizen’s lives. Include specific examples of how to accomplish this goal.

**Step 5:** Work with your teacher-mentor, parent, or other adult to help cite your paper correctly and to proofread your content. Follow the guidelines closely on page 14 to ensure you meet the requirements.

**Step 6:** Submit your paper along with your FYI application to the UF Center for Pre-collegiate Education and Training online.
How do I write a paper for FYI?
Use resources like the Global Food Security Index from The Economist Intelligence Unit to discover more about countries and what is happening in the world. [http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/](http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/)

**STEP 1: EXPLORE THE WORLD**

Fill out the following sections while exploring the world. Check to a variety of sources to discover details about the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country: ___________________________</th>
<th>Region of the World: ___________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**What’s happening in this country?**

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Was there a lot of information about the country (circle one):   YES   NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country: ___________________________</th>
<th>Region of the World: ___________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**What’s happening in this country?**

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Was there a lot of information about the country (circle one):   YES   NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country: ___________________________</th>
<th>Region of the World: ___________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**What’s happening in this country?**

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Was there a lot of information about the country (circle one):   YES   NO
After exploring the world, select a developing country on which to focus your research. The countries listed on this page and the following page are eligible. Then answer the questions about that country and a typical family.

**Caribbean:**
- Anguilla (U.K.)
- Antigua & Barbuda
- Bahamas Barbados
- Bermuda (U.K.)
- Cayman Islands (U.K.)
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Martinique (France)
- Montserrat (U.K.)
- Netherlands Antilles
- Puerto Rico (U.S.)
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Turks & Caicos (U.K.)
- Virgin Islands (U.K. U.S.)

**Central America:**
- Belize
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama

**South America Tropical:**
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- French Guiana
- Guyana
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Suriname
- Venezuela

**South America Temperate:**
- Argentina
- Chile
- Falkland Islands (U.K.)
- Uruguay

**West Africa:**
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cape Verde Islands
- Côte d'Ivoire
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Nigeria
- São Tomé & Príncipe
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

**Southern Africa:**
- Botswana
- Lesotho
- Namibia
- South Africa
- St. Helena (U.K.)
- Swaziland
- Zimbabwe

**Central Africa:**
- Angola
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Congo
- Democratic Republic –
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- South Sudan
- Zambia
After selecting a country, research and begin answering the following questions about that country. Keep track of your sources because the paper requires in-text citation and a bibliography in MLA or APA format.

A. Define a typical subsistence farm family or poor urban family in your country:

- Family size and composition
- Diet
- Education
- Access to health care

B. Define a typical subsistence farm family or poor urban family in your selected country:

**Rural Family**
- Farm size
- Crops grown
- Agricultural practices

**Urban Family**
- Employment and wage
- Where they typically purchase food
- Access to private or community gardens

C. Describe major barriers facing the typical family:

- Major barriers to improving agricultural productivity
- Employment and earning a living wage
- Gaining access to food markets and adequate nutrition
### Step 3: Investigate a Factor in Food Security

Research and then select a factor from this page or the following page. After selecting a factor, answer the questions included in this packet. It is important to select a factor that is relevant to your country.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Plant Science</strong></td>
<td><strong>6. Sustainable Agriculture</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing crop yields and improving disease/drought resistance through research and breeding of improved plant varieties.</td>
<td>Developing and implementing sustainable agricultural practices to combat erosion, desertification, and soil depletion. Reduce pesticide/herbicide use and minimizing environmental degradation associated with contemporary agricultural work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Water Scarcity</strong></td>
<td><strong>7. Animal Agriculture</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing water scarcity and adapting farming practices to reduced water supplies with improved irrigation technologies and conservation practices.</td>
<td>Implementing sustainable practices for raising livestock and poultry (management intensive grazing, integrated livestock/poultry grazing and poultry/vegetable production systems, fish pond farming systems, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Biofuels</strong></td>
<td><strong>8. Spoilage &amp; Waste</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balancing the demand on global food and energy supplies and ensuring that developing nations also benefit from the use of biofuels.</td>
<td>Reducing spoilage and improving the quality and shelf life of food products with improved food preservation techniques and increased processing capacity (flash-heating, aseptic processing, freeze drying, bulk storage, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventing the transmission of disease in livestock and poultry with improved management, investments in vaccine development, and proper application of medications to avoid antibiotic-resistance.</td>
<td>Increasing access to safe, potable water supplies, toilets and pit latrines, and education on proper sanitation/hygiene and food preparation techniques to reduce the transmission of food and water-borne disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Climate Volatility</strong></td>
<td><strong>10. Dietary Diseases</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responding to climate volatility by adapting agricultural practices and policies to increase carbon sequestration and support ecological resilience to erratic weather, rising temperatures/drought, saltwater intrusion, and shifting diseases.</td>
<td>Addressing obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and other dietary diseases through nutrition education, access to nutritious foods, and healthy behavior (dietary diversification, food selection, portion-size control, exercise, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS &amp; INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11. Malnutrition</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alleviating micronutrient deficiencies (iron, vitamin A, iodine, zinc) and protein energy malnutrition through improved access to nutritious food, fortification, supplementation, school-feeding programs, nutrition education, emergency therapeutic feeding, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16. Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investing in education, training and extension for improved implementation of agricultural research and technology.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12. Human Diseases</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing the burden of illness and infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), Malaria, etc., to improve human health and nutrition and raise agricultural production.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>17. Good Governance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing corruption by promoting the rule of law, government accountability, democratic principles and transparency.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>13. Demographics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by population growth and urbanization.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18. International Trade</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Removing discriminatory international trade policies to improve market access, promote fair trade and increase economic development.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14. Conflict Resolution</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preventing and resolving political and armed conflict with diplomatic initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>19. Foreign Aid</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assisting vulnerable populations and improving the effectiveness of humanitarian relief and food aid in conflict zones and disaster sites.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15. Human Rights</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressing gender, cultural and economic discrimination and improving access to credit and securing property rights for the poor and marginalized.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20. Farm to Market</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving access to markets through infrastructure development (roads and railways, internet, mobile technologies, electricity).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
E. Answer the following questions to develop your paper and understand how your selected factor affects food security in your selected country:

1. How does the factor you selected affect agricultural productivity, household income, or food availability and quality in your chosen country?

   Discuss the following:

   - What does the factor presently play in causing your family to:
     - Not produce enough food?
     - Earn sufficient income to purchase food?
     - Access adequate nutrition?

   - What is the present status of this factor?
     - How severe is the situation?
     - Is the environment being degraded?
     - Are women, rural or urban poor, or developing countries particularly disadvantaged? If so, how?

   - Are the trends for this factor improving, worsening, staying the same?
     - How are the trends for this factor measured?
     - Do these measurements indicate the situation is changing? If so, how?
     - Because of potential change, or no change, is the situation for your rural farm or urban family getting worse, improving or staying the same?

   - How would improving or resolving this factor:
     - Increase the amount or quality of food or income available to your family?
     - Preserve the environment sustainably?
     - Lead to economic development and poverty reduction?
     - Benefit women, smallholder farmers or urban dwellers in your country of focus?

2. Describe how other major issues (climate volatility, population growth, water scarcity, energy, demand, pollution, etc.) will affect your chosen factor.

   - How will other major issues (climate volatility, population growth, water scarcity, urbanization, energy demand, pollution, etc.) affect your chosen factor and the wellbeing of your family and their community in the decades ahead?
F. Answer the following questions to develop recommendations for the country. Develop a specific solution or solutions to the issue or issues you encountered.

1. Based on your research, give your recommendations on how to effectively address your selected factor to improve the food security of your family in the country.

- What policies, technologies, practices or investments do you recommend to solve this situation?
- Describe one or more local projects in your focus country that could be scaled up successfully.
- Give suggestions for the appropriate role of communities, the national government, and organizations in implementing your recommendations:
  - United Nations
  - World Bank
  - International research agencies
  - Non-governmental
  - Civic organizations
- How should rural farm and urban families be involved as key players in implementing these recommendations?
STEP 5: WORK WITH A MENTOR TO PROOFREAD AND CITE YOUR PAPER

Work with a teacher-mentor, parent, or other adult to help cite your paper correctly and to proofread your content. Follow the guidelines below to insure you meet the requirements.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

1. **Identification in the upper left-hand corner** of the first page providing the name of the student author, high school name, school city, school state, selected country and factor number, and essay title (in bold)

   EXAMPLE
   - Norman Borlaug
   - Union County High School
   - Lake Butler, FL
   - Mexico, Factor 1: Plant Science

   **Mexico: The Benefits of Semi-Dwarf Wheat**

2. **Body of approximately [3-5 pages] minimum** in length including:
   - An introduction and conclusion, each of which must be at least one-half page
   - Word count of approximately [1500 to 2450] words, excluding bibliography

3. **Bibliography page with at least 5 sources** and **in-text citations** using the standards set by the Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). Choose one style and use it consistently.
   - MLA Style Guide: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
   - APA Style Guide: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

4. **Papers must be submitted as a Word (.doc or .docx) file and meet the following page format requirements:**
   - One-inch page margins (top, bottom, left, right)
   - Eleven-point (11) font, Times New Roman
   - Single-space text, no indentation
   - Double-space between paragraphs

STEP 6: Submit your paper as a part of your FYI application.

Contact Charlotte Emerson, CALS Director of Student Development and Recruitment, if you have any questions:
- cemer@ufl.edu or 352-392-1963

CONGRATS! NOW YOU’RE DONE!