



Let's Talk Trash!

Recycling in the Classroom

Please review and answer the following questions either individually or as a class to examine what happens to the waste in your school. You may have to visit other classrooms or the lunchroom to gather the information. Be sure to have permission from your teacher first!

1. Are there recycling bins in every classroom? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Where is the recycling bin located in most classrooms? For example, is it by the garbage bin? Under the teacher's desk?
3. Check off which materials can be recycled within the classroom.
Hint! Look for a label on the recycling bin or a poster on the wall. Or ask your school custodian.

- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Aluminum cans

- ☐ Plastic bottles w/o caps
- ☐ Other _____

4. Look in the recycling bin.
 - a. Is anything in there that does not belong, resulting in contamination of the recyclables?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 - b. If so, what types of contamination are present?
 - ☐ Candy wrappers
 - ☐ Food waste
 - ☐ Liquids
 - ☐ Bottle caps
 - ☐ Paper towel
 - ☐ Other _____
 - c. Is there anything in the recycling bin that you could *rethink*? In other words, are there any items that need not have been used in the first place?

HELPFUL HINTS FOR WASTE PREVENTION

Pack a waste-free lunch. Use durable containers and avoid Styrofoam.

Get yourself a durable, reusable water bottle. Before you buy, think – Do I really need this?

5. Take a look in the trash can.
 - a. Do you see anything that could have been recycled?
 - b. Do you see anything that could have been reused?
 - c. Do you see anything that you could *rethink* to help reduce waste for your school?
6. What do you think is the attitude of most students about recycling at your school?
7. What do you think prevents students from participating in the recycling program at your school?



Let's Talk Trash!

Recycling in the Lunchroom

1. Where are the recycling bins located in the lunchroom?
2. How many recycling bins are there in relation to garbage bins?
3. Are the recycling bins convenient for everyone in the lunchroom?
4. Check off which materials can be recycled in the lunchroom.
Hint! Look for a label on the recycling bin or a poster on the wall. Or ask your school custodian.

<input type="checkbox"/> Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bottles w/o caps
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum cans	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
5. Look in the recycling bin.
 - a. Is there anything that does not belong, resulting in contamination of the recyclables?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 - b. If so, what types of contamination are present?

<input type="checkbox"/> Candy wrappers	<input type="checkbox"/> Liquids
<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic food packaging	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottle caps
<input type="checkbox"/> Food waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
 - c. Is there anything in the recycling bin that you could *rethink*? In other words, are there any items that need not have been used in the first place?
6. Do you think that most students know what can and cannot be recycled in the lunchroom?
7. What do you think are the barriers to recycling in the lunchroom?
8. What ideas do you have to improve lunchroom recycling?



Let's Talk Trash!
Collecting Food Scraps in the Lunchroom
(If applicable)

1. Where are bins for collecting food scraps and food soiled paper located in the lunchroom?
2. How many bins are there in relation to garbage bins?
3. Are the bins easily accessible to everyone in the lunchroom?

4. Check off which materials in the lunchroom can be collected for composting.
Hint! Look for a label on the food waste bin or a poster on the wall. Or ask your school custodian.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solid food scraps | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit peels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper napkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates | |

5. Look in the food scraps bin.
 - a. Is there anything in there that does not belong, resulting in contamination?
☐ Yes ☐ No

- b. If so, what types of contamination are present?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candy wrappers | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic food packaging or containers | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottles or caps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic coated paper plates | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soda cans | |

6. Do you think that most students know what can and cannot be composted in the lunchroom?
7. What do you think are the barriers to collecting food scraps for composting?
8. What ideas do you have to improve lunchroom food scraps collection?