

Seventh Grade Project Formal Proposal

Name Tycho Brahe Beck

1. What is your question?

How can we create a healthy cafeteria luncheon affordable for the Willow Oaks School (and, hopefully, the world at large)?

2. What is the specific (local, micro) problem?

Students at Willow Oaks School don't like the school lunches, which are often fried foods or low-grade hamburgers. They don't taste good, and they aren't healthy. Because of this, a lot of kids choose to go to the local McDonald's. In either situation, they don't eat a healthy lunch, although McDonald's probably tastes better.

3. What is the larger (global, macro) issue or problem that this connects to?

This connects to the problem of health, eating habits, and the price of food in America and across the world. It also connects to the issue of how we pay for education in America and how there is a difference between the kinds of food students in poor areas can get versus those kids who live in wealthier areas.

4. Why have you chosen this topic?

I've always been someone who likes really good food, and I enjoy cooking. I don't always find something I want to eat in Menlo's cafeteria, but when I went to visit my friend at her public school, the lunch was really gross. I couldn't believe how much better our lunch was, just because we're a private school. When I was in sixth grade, we went to St. Anthony's for Community Service Day, and I was really surprised by how many people needed food. It just doesn't seem fair to me that some people can get good food and some people can't. Also, I try to eat healthy for gymnastics, but it's hard to find healthy food that tastes good. If we want to have healthy people in the world, we have to find a way to make people want to eat healthy food!

5. What do you already know about this issue?

Schools in Berkeley are only given 45 cents to feed a kid every day. Organic food is often more expensive than non-organic food because it costs more to grow than spraying everything with pesticides. For example, an organic apple at Cala Market costs 30 cents more than a non-organic apple. Also, California is having trouble with its budget, and Governor Schwarzenegger has been cutting the budget for schools. That means less money for cafeterias in schools.

6. How do you propose to find out about your problem?

I already read an article about organic food in the schools in Berkeley and saw a video about how they run prisons, and there was a part about prison food. I'm going to do library/Internet

research on how much we spend on food programs in school and how much organic food costs. I'm going to email the person in charge of the food program at Willow Oaks and ask them about what they do and how much it costs. I'm going to visit my friend at Willow Oaks and talk to him and his friends about the food in their cafeteria, what they usually eat for lunch, and what they would like to eat for lunch. I'm also going to interview the person who runs the Menlo cafeteria.

7. What are three possible presentation ideas? You may refer to the list in the project guidelines. You will be able to change your presentation idea (up to a point) as the project progresses.

- I will make a solution lunch and show the class while presenting my research using poster board.
- I will give a talk using powerpoint to emphasize my points
- I will do a skit with my friends to show some of the issues around and solutions to cafeteria food using posterboards.

8. Do you foresee the need to use any outside resources such as someone driving you to a location, the purchase of any materials, museum/facility entrance fee, permission to enter a site, etc.?

I will probably need my dad to drive me to Willow Oaks and pick me up. Since I'll have to go there when kids are there, I may have to miss part of the day at Menlo, so I'll need permission to do that. If I can't get permission, I can go to my friend's house after school one day. I'll need to buy poster board for my presentation. I already have a hand-held tape recorder, so I can use that when I interview people.

You may not spend more than \$20 on the project. Please turn in receipts.

I have read the Menlo School Seventh Grade Project Guidelines.

Student Signature

I have read this student's proposal and am prepared to support her/him in the completion of this project.

Teacher Signature

I have read the Menlo School Seventh Grade Project Guidelines and have discussed them with my child. I have read my child's Project Proposal. I understand that this is the culminating project of the seventh grade and will be counted in the grades of all four core classes.

Parent Signature