



LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

2017 National LifeSmarts Championship

Competition 1: Conducting a Food Waste Audit

Letter to Cafeteria Management and School Administration

Getting involved in the kitchen:

Discuss with school administration and cafeteria managers the importance of conducting food waste audits to both find ways to encourage students to eat all of the nutritious food on their plates and reduce plate waste. Inform them that the LifeSmarts team would like to conduct a food waste audit in the lunchroom to weigh and record food waste data. Identify and address any concerns they raise. Use this letter to introduce the food waste audit.

Audit Introduction Letter to Cafeteria Managers and Administration

Dear Cafeteria Managers/ School administrators (insert names),

Schools play an important role in achieving the United States' first-ever [national goal to reduce food waste by 50% by the year 2030](#). When schools commit to decreasing food waste, the benefits are numerous: lower food costs, additional educational opportunities for students, growth in participation for school meal programs, and increased consumption of nutritious meals. Additionally, engaging student leaders to think creatively about reducing food waste can have lasting, positive impacts that influence the school and community as a whole.

Therefore, we ask your permission to conduct the LifeSmarts Food Waste Challenge in our school. With your approval, the LifeSmarts team will perform a one day food waste audit during lunch or another designated meal time. The food waste audit is our first competition for the upcoming National LifeSmarts Championship in April, and we will gain points for conducting the audit, reporting our findings, and answering critical thinking questions about the experience. My class and I will be happy to share our findings with you as well. We hope that conducting this audit will make all students more aware of the issue of food waste, and even launch a larger conversation in our school. This audit will be team-run, with my students conducting the majority of the audit themselves. We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

(your name)
LifeSmarts Coach