

Responses

Name

Institution

Date

**KirraPowe (Student 1)**

Let me start by commending you for the good essay since it is quite detailed and indeed proves that you actually carried out an in-depth research on the topic. I vehemently agree with your opinion that biodynamic and organic farming is better than conventional farming for food security. Indeed, the world population is increasing at unprecedented rate. Thus, if people were to stick to the convectional farming methods for food security, it would be challenging for food security to be achieved globally. Moreover, even if food security was to be achieved through convectional farming, the negative impacts that the convectional farming methods would have to the environment would be untold. Among others, these negative effects comprise of; land conversion and habitat loss, wasteful water consumption, soil erosion and degradation, pollution, climate change, and genetic erosion (Reganold, Elliot, and Unger, 1987; WWF 2017).

I concur with your argument that food shortage is a major issue and it needs to be effectively addressed. However, convectional farming methods have been employed over the years and have proved that they cannot be relied upon when it comes to addressing the issue of food shortage. Thus, I believe that it is high time for various stakeholders to come together and advocate for biodynamic and organic farming. The reason for that is because even though biodynamic and organic farming is definitely the best way to address food shortage issue. Nevertheless, the awareness levels of biodynamic and organic farming methods are still low (Business Line, 2015) and unless efforts are made to increase the awareness levels, conventional farming will still be the

main farming method and as already pointed out, this method does not have the capability to effectively enhance food security. I am just wondering, in your opinion, do you think that governments are doing enough to encourage biodynamic and organic farming?

### References

Business Line (2015). *Awareness on potential of organic farming still low: Minister*. Retrieved from: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/awareness-on-potential-of-organic-farming-still-low-minister/article7766460.ece>

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WWF (2017). *Environmental impacts of farming*. Retrieved from:

[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/footprint/agriculture/impacts/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/agriculture/impacts/)

### Emily Linsley (Student 2)

Thanks for the informative essay that opposes the introduction of the junk food tax. Even though your points are well argued out, allow me to state that I am of a different view since I think that junk food tax should be introduced in Australia.

In your essay, you have noted that introduction of tax on junk food is not going to have any impact on the obesity rates in the country since the tax would only entail overlooking the underlying issues as obesity and other health issues caused by junk food are not caused by the taxes but by consumption of junk food. To some extent, your argument can be said to be valid even though what you seem to ignore is the fact that

by imposing tax on junk food, the number of people taking junk food will decline resulting to the number of people whom health is affected by junk food declining. As a matter of fact, countries such as Mexico have already implemented a similar tax and it is proving to be effective in lowering the consumption of sugary products in the country (Hatic 2016) and for that reason, it is high time that the tax was introduced in Australia if the Australian government was to reduce junk food consumption levels in the country.

The second point you put forward to support your view that tax should not be imposed on junk food is that by imposing the tax, the cost of food will be increased. However, that is not the case since the tax will only impact the cost of junk food and not the cost of other food products. Thus, by making junk food more expensive through the tax, people are likely to opt for cheaper healthier options and that is going to have positive impacts to the health of Australians.

Finally, you have discussed that imposing junk tax would be limiting people's choices. However, it is the government's responsibility to ensure that it provides the best for its citizens and since the tax means that Australian people should now consider other options instead of having unhealthy meals, I believe that the tax should be imposed immediately.

### References

Hatic, D. (2016). *Mexico's Junk Food Tax Is Working, Says Study*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.eater.com/2016/7/6/12107050/mexico-junk-food-tax-success>