

## 2022 Oral Presentation Scenario

You are the last person to leave your high school cafeteria and noticed the significant amount of food waste in the trash. As President of the student council, you decide this is an issue that you and the council can lead on. In study hall, you research food waste composting. You learn that it is estimated that over 30% of food produced in the US ends up as waste and is a major landfill factor. You also learn that compost is a nutrient rich soil amendment.

That evening you at dinner, mention to your dad your thoughts on food waste since your dad works for the county government solid waste department. He tells you that food waste is over 20% of the waste deposited in the local landfill.

You have food waste at the school as an agenda item for the next student council meeting. The faculty advisor cautions you that this issue may not be as simple as it appears to fix, but the council members want to find out more and form a committee. The committee reports at the next monthly meeting that students are enthusiastic about starting a composting project for the entire school system. The faculty advisor asks you to prepare a list of questions and answers before taking the idea to the school board.

- Collection:** Who is responsible for this and how is it managed?  
What material is not allowed in the waste stream to be composted?  
Can changes to the food service system positively affect cafeteria costs?
- Location:** Where will the food composting site be located?
- Control:** What issues are there related to controlling odor, animal activity, and other negative issues?
- Management:** Who provides staff for the site?  
Is there any specialized equipment needed and who operates this equipment?
- Compost:** What do you do with the finished compost? Sell? Provide to families for gardens?
- General:** Can this idea be replicated to the local cities or the entire county solid waste system?