

## Reading Passage (211 words): Causes of World Hunger

World hunger refers to the multitudes of people presently facing the risk of an insufficient (quantity) or inadequate (quality) food supply, something known as food insecurity. This problem has led to detriments from the insidious, such as stunted growth and a greater risk of contracting disease, to the obvious, namely starvation and death.

Therefore, how widespread is world hunger and how great is the problem anyway? The World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations (UN) reports that daily, over 800 million people go hungry while every 3.2 seconds, someone in the world dies of hunger. Most of the world's hungry (over 40%) are concentrated in China and India, with the rest found mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America . Furthermore even developed nations such as the USA and Britain have millions of hungry people within their borders.

It seems that overpopulation is causing more and more people to die of starvation every year. There is simply not enough food for the 7 billion people that exist in the world. In addition, western countries like the United States and Canada have have enough land to support their populations, while third world countries do not. In addition, the weather, specifically famines, also seem to be a big factor in causing world hunger.

Writing Prompt: How does the information in the lecture reject the claims made in the reading passage?

## Lecture (331 words): Myths about World Hunger

The author of the article about world hunger has some good intentions about helping us understand more about the problems regarding starvation in our world today. However, I fear that some of his comments are misguided.

Actually, there is plenty of food in the world. Production of cereals (wheat, rice, millet etc) last year reached 1799.2 million tons, enough to offer everyone in the world well over the recommended minimum of 2.500 calories per adult per day. And that is before you've even begun to count the calories in vegetables, nuts, pulses, root crops and grass-fed (as opposed to grain-fed) meat. The problem is the distribution of that food, both within countries and between rich and poor worlds. People like us in the developed nations eat much more than we need.

Furthermore, western countries have enough *money* to support their populations. There's little relationship between hunger and the availability of land. Holland has 1.117 people per square mile and Bolivia (just 12, yet the Dutch are one of the best-fed people in the world and the Bolivian poor among the world's most undernourished. We think of India as overpopulated yet it has 568 people per square mile, less than Britain's 583. And Africa may have the world's greatest food problem - but it isn't for the lack of land. At the moment only a quarter of Africa's potential arable land is being cultivated.

Finally, the weather does not cause famines - people do. Earthquakes and floods, droughts and cyclones may be 'natural disasters' but humans decide who will suffer from them. When the recent cyclone hit Bangladesh, for instance, it was only the poor that died. Only the poor were desperate enough for land to make the dangerous move onto the new islands that appear every year in the Bay of Bengal. Red Cross statistics show that, in high-income countries, the number of people killed per disaster is under ten per cent of that killed in low-income countries.