**What can we do?**

We are not all inventors but we can all do our part by reducing our plastic consumption. The idea of **Zero Waste** set of principles focused on waste prevention that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused.

Going completely Zero Waste is a daunting task for anyone. But it may be better to think of it as not each person doing everything possible but rather if most people starting to do what they can. There are many small, easy adjustments anyone can make. If we did our part, these small actions will have a huge impact.

Think about items you use on a daily or weekly basis that could reduce amount of waste. *When at school, did your sandwich come in a plastic bag or wrapped in plastic? How often did you purchase a slurpee or bubble tea in a plastic cup with a plastic straw? Do you recycle that can of soda or energy drink?*

There are many alternatives currently on the market that help reduce our consumption of plastics or other single use items. Your task is to evaluate one and report on it.

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**Research a Product Project /30**

Below are a list of commercially availabe productes designed to reduce our waste.

* foldable spork
* Drinking Straws,
* Water bottles,
* reusable ziplock containers
* coffee mugs
* bees wax wrap
* silicon food covers
* laundry soap strips
* menstrual cup
* menstrual underwear
* rechargeable bike light
* hand crank flashlight

**What to do:**

1. **Select** one item from the list to research or *come up with your own*.
2. **Describe the problem** with the original item (eg. Single use coffee cups are difficult to recycle due to their plastic coating, a product may leach chemicals that pollute soil/water/air, produce has excessive packaging, menstrual pads not recyclable, etc).
3. **Research THREE different brands** of an alternative product. (eg. 3 Different coffee mugs, silicon food covers, etc )
4. **Summarize** the top qualities of each product (eg. price, effectiveness, weight, durability, etc).
5. **Evaluate** the pro’s and cons of your top three picks. You should evaluate at least 3 qualities and they should be applicable to your product. You may need to read some reviews from people that actually purchased these products. Beware of reviewers that have received the product from the company that sells the product. These people may be getting paid to promote the product, which means their review would be more favorable. Rate them in order.
6. **Conclude** which one is the best value. Explain *why* you think it is the best option AND whether you would *buy* and actually *use* it.
7. **Include a picture** and **brand** name of each of your three alternatives**.**
8. **Must use complete sentences.**
9. Submit a word document to Teams.

This can look like a Consumer Report style with an intro paragraph describing the problem and listing some solutions. Then product reviews in paragraph or a chart. End with a summary paragraph with your conclusion of the winner.