YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD AND JUSTICE
A SURVEY OF YOUTH IN CLEVELAND, OHIO
When I was beginning to become a teen, I realized that adults somewhat pay attention to what you are saying, and actually care. It just something about becoming a young adult and being one, that adults respect and treat our word as if we are one of them.

Adults say it themselves, they don't listen or talk to kids or children. Well more like they feel as if they can't because we're too young to understand.

People don't take high school students seriously.

1 in 5 youth do not believe their voice is heard
WHAT ARE OUR RIGHTS WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD?

You should have fresh food close to your house at all times.

We should be able to have fresh food available so we can stay healthy.

To always in stay healthy and make sure my body stays in good health.

Knowing where your food is produced and the process.

The price shouldn't be so high.

What's in it? How it was raised?

Everybody should have an equal chance and availability to food. Where you live wouldn't dictate what kind of food you can eat.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FOOD IS PRODUCED?

“Factory: that's where the food is produced and shipped out.

All I think about is me being hungry not where my food is produced.

I never really thought about it..

I buy my food from a grocery store or fresh markets sometimes.

I can't produce my own food to live off of so I'ma just have eat what I can.

I don't care as long as I have something to eat I will eat everything.

I know it's probably bad where it comes from but I don't have enough money to get the good stuff and neither does my family.”
WHAT IS IMPORTANT WHEN SELECTING FOOD?

- Nutrition or health?
  - I try to be healthy most of the time I eat what's available that I like.

- Taste?
  - I want my food to taste good and also be cheap too.

- Distance from home?

- Price?

My health is the most important thing to me because I like to see myself in good condition instead of worrying about my health.

I think of the distance from home because depending on weather, I wouldn't want to take a long (trip) from home to the store to get some food.

I am usually ignorant towards how healthy my food is but I do care about how it taste and how much it cost and how far away it is. I mainly get this from my parents.

...the more healthy food, the more it cost to buy it.
WHAT IS A FOOD DESERT?

A “Food Desert” is an area in your neighborhood where there aren't stores available to get fresh healthy quality food within walking distance.

A Food Desert is also an area where there are only fast food restaurants, and corner stores.

There are also transportation issues because people may not have cars to drive miles away to get the foods and nutrition that they need.
AND SHOULD WE CALL IT SOMETHING ELSE?

When asked to write a definition of “food desert”, these are examples of what high school students from across the city wrote:

“
I think a food desert is a store.
I think it is (a) place where a lot of food places are.
I’m not sure..
A place where food is available to be eaten.
I don’t know what a food desert is.
A urban area (where) you could not afford good quality foods.
A place or a neighborhood where there is lots of fresh food in that area.
How far you are from food (in distance).
Lack and access of quality food at major stores.
”

What do YOU think? Is “food desert” the term we want? What else could we call food inequalities in Cleveland?
Thank You For Listening!

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WHAT’S ON THE AGENDA?

11:00-11:05- Five minute introductions
11:05-11:10- Directions
11:10-11:20- Table Question 1
11:20-11:30- Table Question 2
11:30-11:40- Report Back
11:40-11:45- Wrap Up