



# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL LEADERS



The World Food Prize  
Mississippi Youth Institute (MSYI)  
Mississippi State University

## TEACHER INFORMATION SHEET

### **The World Food Prize Mississippi Youth Institute (MSYI) on March 26, 2021**

#### **Encourage students to write an essay!**

Students work with a teacher to prepare a research paper about a global issue concerning hunger and poverty. Schools nominate students to participate, along with their teachers, in the day-long event at Mississippi State University. Students and teachers should visit: [www.cals.msstate.edu/msyouthinstitute](http://www.cals.msstate.edu/msyouthinstitute) for more information on how to participate.

#### **At the event students will:**

1. Present research findings and propose solutions in discussion groups led by experts from around Mississippi.
2. Participate, with their teachers, in interactive activities on the Mississippi State University campus to explore research and work currently taking place in Mississippi to address global challenges.
3. Engage with research and industry experts and their peers to discuss solutions to global hunger and poverty.

### **Opportunities available to participating students**

#### ***The World Food Prize Global Youth Institute***

The top students at the Mississippi Youth Institute will be invited to attend the three-day educational experience held in conjunction with the World Food Prize International Symposium in Iowa each October. Students interact with World Food Prize Laureates, discuss pressing food security issues with international experts, and participate in interactive activities with other students from across the United States and around the world.

#### ***Borlaug Ruan International Internship***

Students who attend the Global Youth Institute may apply for this all-expenses-paid, eight week hands-on summer experience, working with world renowned scientists and policy makers at leading research centers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

#### ***USDA Wallace-Carver Fellowship***

Students involved in the World Food Prize youth programs (e.g. MSYI) may apply for a USDA Wallace-Carver Fellowship. Fellows conduct original research or policy analysis through paid summer internships at USDA research centers and field offices across the country, including USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

# How do I get my students to write the research paper?

**1**

## **SELECT A COUNTRY**

Students select a developing country to focus their research on. A list of all eligible countries can be found on page 6-7 of the Mississippi Youth Institute Paper Instruction Packet at: [www.cals.msstate.edu/msyouthinstitute](http://www.cals.msstate.edu/msyouthinstitute).

*As a teacher, you may initiate the paper in one of three ways:*

1. Allow student to choose a country in a developing area of the world.
2. Focus student to select a country in a geographic area or hemisphere.
3. Ask student to select a country that speaks a specific language that fits your curriculum.  
(e.g. French teachers may choose to focus on French speaking countries in Africa, Caribbean, and Oceania.)

**2**

## **SELECT A FACTOR RELATED TO FOOD SECURITY**

Inquiry-based learning takes hold when the student focuses his/her learning toward a factor in which he/she is personally interested. A list of all suggested factors may be found on page 9-10 of the Mississippi Youth Institute (MSYI) Paper Instruction Packet.

*Tips for step 2 include:*

- Adjust the steps to fit your curriculum. If it works for a student to first choose a factor, rather than a country, feel free to switch the first two steps around.
- A teacher may first focus students on a factor to fit their curriculum, before choosing the country (i.e. an agriculture teacher may choose to have their students focus on factors like Plant Sciences or Animal Health).
- Is there a factor in food security not listed but that really interests your students? Contact Scott Willard.

**3**

## **ANSWER THE LISTED QUESTION TO DEVELOP THE PAPER**

This part is often the most intimidating for students; however, with guidance from a teacher/mentor, students can easily complete the paper. The list of required questions can be found on page 11 of the instruction packet.

*Here are some tips on helping your student through step 3:*

- If a student is intimidated by the number of questions, break the paper down and assign one section of questions each week. Use the check-off sheet on the Mississippi Youth Institute webpage to hold them accountable.
- Rather than focusing on the length of the paper, help the student focus on the quality of their answers.
- Express the importance of citing their work and using credible sources at the beginning of the process.
- Partner with other teachers in your school to help your students have a unique interdisciplinary project.
- Double check that the student's solutions to the food security problem are clearly defined.

**4**

## **ASSIST THE STUDENT WITH EDITING THE PAPER**

It is important to assist the student in finding a mentor to help edit his/her paper. Whether you or another teacher contributes to the editing process, it really helps a student feel more comfortable when the paper is well written. Please note that we ask for in-text citations and you may use the citation method that best fits your classroom.

*Here are some tips on completing Step 4:*

- Ask a fresh set of eyes to check for common spelling and grammatical errors. Sometimes they can catch mistakes others have overlooked. Assess for plagiarism and help students write in his/her own words.
- Use the Purdue University OWL (<http://owl.purdue.edu>) as a free style guide and resource for writing the paper. It is free and accessible to all students.

**5**

## **SUBMIT THE PAPER BY WEB BY FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

The last step is to submit the paper by web by February 26, 2021, to ensure your student qualifies for all the benefits of the program. The submission tool is located on the Mississippi Youth Institute (MSYI) website at [www.cals.msstate.edu/msyouthinstitute](http://www.cals.msstate.edu/msyouthinstitute).

It is important to contact the Mississippi State Coordinator, **Dr. Scott Willard** at [swillard@cals.msstate.edu](mailto:swillard@cals.msstate.edu) or **662.325.0233** to let him know the number of students submitting research papers by February 26, 2021, for planning purposes.



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GLOBAL YOUTH INSTITUTE



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND LIFE SCIENCES