

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Report Says Many Youths Are 'Too Fat to Fight', 04/23/2010

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june10/lunches_04-23.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did a panel of retired military officers discover?
2. What percent of young people ages 17 to 24 are unfit to fight and why?
3. What does the army physical fitness test require?
4. What is the national school lunch program. When and why was it established?
5. How have American diets changed over the years?

6. Why is it more difficult for school systems to provide healthier lunches with fresh produce?

7. What is the group of retired military officers asking Congress to do?

8. What is the Obama administration's position on this issue?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think that young people in America have an obesity problem? Why or why not?

2. Whose responsibility is it to make sure that Americans are healthy? The government? Parents? Individuals? Explain your answer.

3. Do you eat the school lunch? Why or why not?

4. What kind of lunches do you think that your school should provide? What kinds of food would you most like to eat?

5. What might be some other reasons that it is good for American youth to be healthy?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.