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English 1B

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Field Trip to Abraham Lincoln High School

 Since the Spring Break for high school has not started yet while I was still indulging myself during the break, I decided to take the advantage of it. I visited Abraham Lincoln High School, which is one of the most well-known public high schools in San Francisco. It is not the one I attended, but Galileo and Lincoln both belong to SFUSD (San Francisco Unified School District). I chose to go on March 23rd, which was a regular Monday for high school students and therefore I would get the most realistic feedback for my research.

 I got there at about 11:20, and I already noticed some students who were walking back with some square lunch boxes in their hands as I was walking up the hill. I was neither strange nor unfamiliar with what I saw because I was one of them. Back in high school, I would seek alternates to the cafeteria food with my friends during lunch time; moreover, Lincoln is located a block away from the Taraval Street, which is one of the most savory streets in Sunset district. There are BBQ, hotpot, Chinese cafe, Japanese and Thai cuisines and many other restaurants. Based on what I had seen so far at that moment, I assumed the quality of the meals that are provided by SFUSD had not improved. Then I contacted one of my friends who went to Lincoln high school.

 Wendi led me inside the building, and I saw numerous high school students walking down to the first floor. “Students need to go through three period until lunch, and three more after it.” Wendi said. I wanted her to show me around the cafeteria of the school, and she and her friends all gave me this impatient looks. It appeared that they were also not very fond of the school lunch, and that made me wonder what I was going to see in the cafeteria. I wonder if it was going to be the same as the one I had been served.

 They told me there were two entrees to choose from, which were spaghetti & meatballs and cheese lasagna. And I chose the spaghetti. They both sounded quite all right, yet what I saw was what I expected. In a brown paper tray, I saw an orange, a box of chocolate milk, a cheese snack, and my entree with steam all over its plastic cover. The orange is fresh and the milk is still provided by that same company, and therefore the same okay flavor and quality. Then I peeled of the cover on my entree, and as I had expected, I saw this spaghetti that was blended into some gross watery tomato sauce again. It was indeed a waste that I threw it away, but I had to admit the first bite of that spaghetti made me want to vomit on the lunch table. I tried to ask the staff who work at the cafeteria why that was. They said the lunch was not prepped at lunch time, because there was no way they could get that number of portions done by lunch if they did not start earlier. They knew the students hated it, but it was their job to get certain number of portions done per day, and therefore there would be waste.

 I then followed my friend to their favorite lunch spot, and I saw some well-maintained vending machines on my way. There were chips, drinks, and nutrition bars, and snacks that students can buy at the stores around their school. I could see students barely touch them because of that. The whole trip pretty much confirmed my expectation that students need to seek alternatives from the meals that are provided by the district.