

Where your things come from

Do you know **where** the things you wear, use, and eat come from? What appears as a simple question may be a rather complex process. Even though we tend to buy these items locally, it does not necessarily mean that these are produced within U.S. borders.

The purpose of this assignment is to make us reflect about how our lives depend on **international trade**. Inspired by [this New York Times article](#), you are invited to keep track of where the items you use, wear, and eat daily come from.

As a suggested approach, take the next **5 days** (e.g., 3 week and 2 weekend days) and look up where your breakfast foods, your shoes, your earbuds, wallet, pillowcase, etc., come from. I bet it will be an interesting and revealing experience.

To **summarize** your results, make a simple table like the one below:

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i># items</i>
United States	30
China	27
Vietnam	16
Ecuador	12
Bangladesh	8

If possible, include a few **examples** of items from each country (e.g., bananas from Ecuador, t-shirts from Bangladesh, etc.).

Lastly, describe **one daily activity** in more detail. This can be a meal, such as what you have for breakfast, or an activity, such as going to class. Think about all the things you use to get those activities done and write down the countries of origin for each of these items.

Your final piece must be no longer than **2 pages**. On the **first**, insert your table. On the **second**, briefly describe the activity you have chosen to focus on and track the origin of your consumption goods and services.