

# Topical Outline & Content Prompts

## Title Page

- **Title:** Food Insecurity on College Campuses: Causes, Consequences, and Responses
- **Prepared for:** [Audience, e.g., City Council / Board of Trustees / Nonprofit Governing Board]
- **Prepared by:** [Your Name]
- **Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Course/Organization:** [If applicable]

## Executive Summary (~0.5 page; separate page)

- **Purpose:** Provide decision-makers a concise overview of the scope of food insecurity among college students, its underlying causes, impacts, and institutional/community responses.
- **Content Prompts:**
  - Define “food insecurity” in plain language.
  - Note prevalence (e.g., percentage of U.S. college students affected).
  - Summarize key causes (financial pressures, rising housing costs, tuition).
  - Highlight major consequences (academic performance, health, equity concerns).
  - Preview responses (campus food pantries, meal swipe programs, state/federal support).
- **Evidence & Sources:** USDA definitions, national survey data (e.g., Hope Center), higher-ed research reports.

## Introduction (~0.5 page)

- **Purpose:** Establish scope, relevance, and importance of the issue for non-expert decision-makers.
- **Content Prompts:**
  - Define food insecurity (technical term explained simply).
  - Explain why the issue matters for student success, equity, and workforce readiness.
  - Clarify why a topical structure (causes, consequences, responses) provides the clearest understanding.
- **Evidence & Sources:** USDA reports, NACUFS research, major policy briefs.

## Discussion (~5-6 pages)

### I. Causes of Food Insecurity (~1.5–2 pages)

- **Purpose:** Explain the structural and situational factors driving food insecurity among college students.
- **Content Prompts:**
  - Rising tuition, housing, and textbook costs outpacing financial aid.
  - Ineligibility or difficulty accessing federal food programs (SNAP).
  - Part-time jobs with low pay and competing academic demands.
  - Broader economic pressures (inflation, wage stagnation).
  - **Embedded case study:** A university where food insecurity rose following tuition hikes.
- **Evidence & Sources:** Hope Center national surveys, U.S. Department of Education, state-level policy briefs.

### II. Consequences of Food Insecurity (~2 pages)

- **Purpose:** Show the wide-ranging impacts on students and institutions.
- **Content Prompts:**
  - Academic effects: lower GPA, higher dropout rates.
  - Health effects: malnutrition, stress, mental health issues.
  - Social equity: disproportionate effects on first-generation, minority, and low-income students.
  - Institutional implications: retention rates, graduation statistics, workforce development.
  - **Embedded case study:** Survey data from a mid-sized university linking food insecurity to academic probation.
- **Evidence & Sources:** Peer-reviewed research (Journal of Nutrition Education & Behavior), mental health studies, institutional reports.

### III. Responses to Food Insecurity (~2–2.5 pages)

- **Purpose:** Document efforts to address the problem, from local to national levels.
- **Content Prompts:**
  - Campus food pantries, community food partnerships.
  - Meal voucher/swap programs.
  - Policy changes expanding student access to SNAP.
  - University emergency aid funds.
  - Innovative responses: mobile apps for food redistribution, community gardens.
  - **Embedded case study:** A successful campus program that reduced reported food insecurity rates.
- **Evidence & Sources:** University program evaluations, nonprofit reports (Feeding America), state legislation summaries.

#### IV. Looking Forward (~0.5 page)

- **Purpose:** Provide evidence-based outlook on the issue.
- **Content Prompts:**
  - Future challenges: sustaining programs, addressing stigma.
  - Opportunities: stronger federal/state partnerships, systemic changes in financial aid.
  - Broader implications for equity and workforce development.
- **Evidence & Sources:** Policy think-tank reports (Brookings, Urban Institute), ongoing research by the Hope Center.

#### Conclusion (~0.25–0.5 page)

- **Purpose:** Reinforce the importance of understanding and addressing campus food insecurity.
- **Content Prompts:**
  - Restate scope of the problem.
  - Summarize causes, consequences, and responses.
  - Stress relevance for decision-makers tasked with community well-being and educational success.
- **Evidence & Sources:** Synthesis of earlier sections.

#### References (not counted in page length)

- **Purpose:** Document sources for verification and credibility.
- **Content Prompts:** 8–10 credible sources, using IEEE (or required) citation style.
- **Potential Sources:** USDA, Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, peer-reviewed journals, government policy briefs, reputable media outlets.