

Hello again! This is my second **You and the World blog post**, and I am here to tell you even more about the chocolate industry. If you are reading this, I am assuming that you have read my first blog post as well. If you have not, however, you can access it by clicking [here](#). In my first blog post I talked about what was going on in the chocolate industry today. Many people think that the chocolate industry is sweet and delicious like the product that comes from it. But in reality, what happens in the chocolate industry is not so sweet. The act of child slave labor is what keeps the industry going. The severe and shocking things these children are forced to do are unbelievable. In this blog post, I will be telling you all about the original research I have done, and more! So keep on reading!

Slavery in the Chocolate Industry

* Required

How old are you? / What grade are you in? *

- Grades K-8
- High School (grades 9-12)
- Age 18-20
- Age 20-50
- Age 50+

How often do you eat chocolate? *

- Once a hour
- Once a day
- Once every couple days
- Once a week
- Once every couple of weeks
- Barely ever
- I hate chocolate

How much do you know about modern slavery? *

- Fully informed
- Partially informed
- Little informed
- Not at all informed

If you have heard of modern slavery, where did you learn about it?

- School
- A friend
- Social Media Site (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Newspaper (online or in print)
- Word of Mouth
- Mail (An Internet)
- Other:

How much do you know about slavery in the chocolate industry? *

- Completely aware, and trying to help
- I've heard about it, but haven't done anything to else to advance my research.
- There is slavery in the chocolate industry???
- Other:

If you were to be informed on this topic, would you try to make a difference? *

- Yes, definitely
- Maybe
- Probably not

The survey that I created

Since my first blog post, I have done more research, and even conducted my own original research. My goal with my original research was to see how many people were aware of this issue. So, I created a survey to assess peoples' knowledge. I sent out an email with the link to my survey to all of my school, and I posted the link on Facebook. Some of the questions that I asked were: Do you know about modern slavery? How much do you know about the slavery in the chocolate industry? and If you knew more about the issue, would you do something to make a

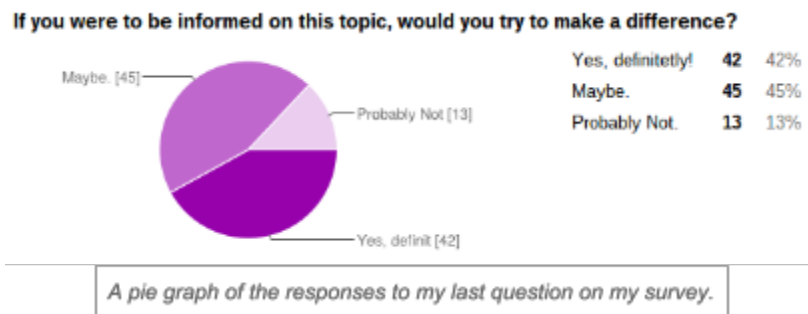
difference? I felt that these questions would be helpful to determine everyone's knowledge about the topic.

Now let's talk numbers. I got exactly 100 responses to my survey. The majority of the responses (67%) were from high school students. Out of the 98% that said they eat chocolate, only 8% are fully informed about the chocolate industry slavery. This information made me crazy because so many people are eating a product that is being produced by slaves, and they had no idea. However, when I asked about their knowledge on modern slavery in general, the numbers went up. Over half over the responders were *at least* partially informed about modern slavery. This means that we are going in the right direction, we just need to dig a little deeper.

The last question I asked was, "If you were to be informed on this topic, would you try to make a difference?" I asked this question because I wanted to know if were to educate people on this topic, would

they join me in making a difference? Overall, about $\frac{2}{5}$ of the people said that they would definitely help, and

about $\frac{2}{5}$ said that they might help. That leaves $\frac{1}{5}$ of the people saying that they wouldn't make a difference. This is a great start, but we need to continue reaching out to people, and informing them of this issue. Here are the rest of the [results](#) from my survey.



In addition to conducting my own research, I did some research online. I found out

about how others are trying to help. For example, you can have a screening of the movie **Dark Side of Chocolate** to raise awareness of the slavery. To learn more about hosting a screening click [here](#). This screening kit comes with place to send donations, a suggested schedule for the screening, and everything else you might need in order to be fully equipped for a movie screening.

Also, people have petitions for you to sign all over the internet. These petitions take only a couple of seconds to complete, but they can help save someone's life. [Here](#) is an online

petition that you might be interested in signing. It is a petition being sent to companies who use child slave labor in their plantations, such as Hershey's and Nestle. In fact, a couple of years ago, so many people signed a petition



interested
being sent
child slave
such as
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many
for

Hershey's, that Hershey's agreed to stop using child slave labor by 2020. Now the real question is if they will keep their promise, because they haven't always in the past (see the Harkin Engel Protocol part on Blog #1). That is why it is important to keep on protesting.

Part three of this project is to go out in the world and be an "Agent of Change" in whatever our topic is. So, for my service project, I am going to get signatures on a petition. The petition is then going to be sent to an organization who sends it to Hershey's. Since I am also trying to gain awareness of this issue, I will also be handing out little information sheets to people that I see. On these information sheets there will be some facts about what is

happening, and a list of companies who use cocoa from plantations with child slaves. Overall, I am trying to get people to use informed decisions when they buy chocolate.

All of this information has made me realize that we really need to make sure everybody knows about the horrific things happening in our world in order to make a difference. I also wonder why more people have not already starting helping. With that, I am ending my blog post. Please keep thinking about how you can change the world. And keep a look out for my next blog post! Thanks for reading!

Click [here](#) to check out my Annotated Bibliography!