

AUDIO SCRIPT

[Passage 1 – F1: Student; F2: Student]

F1: So, for our presentation we have to create a green design that will benefit the whole community. Do you have any ideas, Meredith?

F2: Yes, Jen, in fact I've been thinking about it a lot. My idea is to turn the old railway line into a park.

F1: You mean the old elevated line above the Northside Highway?

F2: Yeah. I heard on the news that the government wants to tear it down. That's a terrible idea because it's historically important. It was built in 1922 and was the main form of transportation for bringing goods into the city in the early 20th century. It hasn't been used since 1964. That's when trucks and vans started delivering the goods instead. And by the way, these vehicles actually cause a lot of pollution and traffic problems. The railway line should be saved and turned into something special that everyone can enjoy.

F1: Hm, I like your idea, Meredith. Everyone loves parks. I've heard about a similar park in New York City. How could we do that here?

F2: I think it's possible. Why not? Right now, it's full of trash, so we'd need to clean it up. Then we'd need to get professional advice about the structure... someone to analyze it and make sure it's safe for the public to use.

F1: An engineer...

F2: Yes, and then, we'd bring in soil so we can plant grass and trees. Did you know that one tree makes about 260 pounds of oxygen each year?

F1: Gosh, I wasn't aware of that. The city certainly needs more trees and flowers.

F2: We could ask the public to participate in planting them. We could build benches for them to sit on and enjoy the beautiful environment. We could modify the old station house and turn it into a café. It could sell inexpensive and healthy food ...

F1: Like what?

F2: Well, veggie burgers and salads. We could even have a farmers' market once or twice a week. And we could build an outdoor theater and put on performances in the summer. Are you writing all this down?

F1: Yes, wait ...

F2: There should be an emphasis on children's theater because I read a report that said 64% of children have never been to a play. That's pretty sad. We could also put on alternative theater, you know, odd plays that people have never heard of.

F1: Hm, I'm not sure I like that idea, Meredith. I think we should show popular plays so that lots of people will come to see them.

F2: Okay, I suppose you're right, Jen. Anyway, the money we make from the café and the theater will help to pay for the park. We could also have public sculptures by local artists. We could hold competitions ...

F1: Yeah, competitions always generate a lot of interest, especially if there's a prize.

F2: Okay, great! Now, you're a better artist than me, Jen. Could you draw some images of the park that we could project during our presentation?

F1: Sure, Meredith. That sounds like fun. You can organize my notes.

[Passage 2 – F1: Interviewer; M1: Interviewee]

F1: Good morning, listeners. Welcome to another edition of *In the News*. My guest today is Justin Mendoza, health reporter for the *Daily News*. He'll be talking about superbugs. Thanks for coming in, Justin.

M1: It's a pleasure to be here, Karen.

F1: So, what are superbugs?

M1: Well, a superbug is a strain, or type, of bacteria that has become resistant to antibiotic drugs. That means the antibiotics available today are unable to kill these types of bacteria. You see, bacteria want to survive. So, over time, they have adapted to the antibiotics that were designed to kill them.

F1: That's scary.

M1: It is, Karen. Since the invention of penicillin in 1928, we have come to think of antibiotics as a wonder drug. That's not true anymore.

F1: So how we can protect ourselves against this new enemy?

M1: Well, the most effective method is to wash our hands frequently. But another reason we are becoming resistant to antibiotics is because of the food we eat.

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F1: Is that so? I don't think many people are aware of that.

M1: You're right. The majority of the meat we buy comes from factory farms. This meat is a primary source of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

F1: Why is that, Justin?

M1: Well, cattle and poultry, such as chicken and turkey, raised on factory farms are routinely given small amounts of antibiotics in their food. The antibiotics help the animals survive their living conditions. Animals on factory farms are cramped together in confined spaces, so they don't get any exercise. They become stressed and sick, so they are treated with antibiotics. It was also discovered that antibiotics make the animals gain weight. Fatter animals mean more meat. The antibiotics kill the weak bacteria, but allow strains that can resist the antibiotics to become stronger. Those bacteria—plus the antibiotics—end up in the meat we buy in supermarkets.

F1: So the antibiotics haven't killed the bacteria ...

M1: No, they haven't. A group called the Environmental Working Group analyzed data released by the U.S. government and found that 81% of ground turkey, 55% of ground beef, and 39% of chicken sold in supermarkets contained antibiotic-resistant bacteria. These bacteria cause millions of cases of food poisoning each year.

F1: And the bacteria in these meats are resistant to antibiotics.

M1: Yes, 100% resistant.

F1: What can people do, besides becoming vegetarians?

M1: There are some things we can do. For example, more consumers are demanding antibiotic-free meat. The U.S. government has responded by asking meat companies to stop feeding their animals unnecessary antibiotics. However, only 5% of the meat sold in supermarkets is antibiotic-free. And that meat is not always free of bacteria.

F1: Antibiotic-free meat is more expensive, isn't it?

M1: Yes, it is, Karen. That's because it's more expensive for meat companies to raise their animals in a healthier environment. But consumers need to keep putting pressure on them to stop using unnecessary antibiotics. I think paying more for antibiotic-free meat is the price we have to pay to stay healthy. Or, as you said, we could become vegetarians and stop eating meat altogether.

F1: Well, that was very interesting. Thanks, Justin.

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M1: You're welcome, Karen.