

# THROW AWAY SOCIETY

2023 Affiliate Bowl

## + TOPIC DESCRIPTOR +

Consumerism has promoted a 'throw-away' society – one in which people do not keep things for very long, preferring single-use and disposable items. This societal approach leads to overconsumption of short-term items instead of durable goods that can be repaired. Widespread social influencing often encourages people to focus on the consumption, ownership, and display of material possessions to mark an individual's social status, identity, and standing. This impacts the environment, lifestyles, and distribution of wealth. Consumerism stretches the world's limited natural resources.

Production is dictated by consumer demand, and businesses try to provide consumers with a growing number of options, including branded goods, to stay afloat. Many products are often fads or are adapted and modified regularly to entice consumers to buy the upgrades despite already having durable ones. Constant upgrades are sought to achieve greater social standing through material possession instead of meaningful acts.

How can societies value all their members while allowing for - and encouraging - individual perspectives and desires? What are the appropriate balances between local values and global aspirations for consumers?



## + SUGGESTED READINGS +

### Theme 1: Competing With One Another

- Conspicuous consumption
- Our dangerous obsession with huge fashion hauls

### Theme 2: The Impact of Social Media

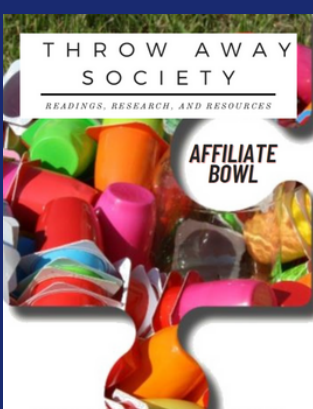
- How social media impacts the buying behavior of Asian consumers
- Ultra-fast fashion is taking over- and using every trick in the book to get us addicted

### Theme 3: Rejecting the Throw-Away Society

- Toward limits the number of times consumers can buy from its platform to 12, annually
- The country rejecting throwaway culture

### Theme 4: Taking Care of Ourselves and the Environment

- Everything we buy has a carbon cost
- Growing anti-Black Friday movement spurns overconsumption, unsustainable holiday shopping.



Learn More - Get the Readings, Research, & Resources for Throw Away Society

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