What do you need? What do you want?

**Purpose:** To help participants distinguish between personal needs and wants, and consider how things are used or wasted.

This activity is designed for working in pairs.

**What to do**

1. Get a partner. If working with a larger group, divide into pairs.

2. In your pair, open your envelope of cards. Divide the cards into two groups:
   - things you need to live a healthy life
   - things you don’t necessarily need, but that might be nice to have.
   
   Take about five minutes to complete this part of the activity.

3. As a group, discuss your “needs” and “wants.” Did you notice any basic needs that you felt the cards did not represent (for example, things like “friends,” “clean air,” or “respect”)?

4. Again, in pairs, shuffle your cards. Now divide the cards into these groups:
   - things that end up being thrown away or wasted, at least in part
   - things that are not usually thrown way or wasted.
   
   Take about five minutes to complete this part of the activity.

5. As a group, discuss how you sorted the cards. Consider together how different people define their “needs” or “wants.” Discuss how fulfilling the needs or wants of one person can create trash or garbage for another person. Consider ways that “trash” from one person might be usable by another.

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