Scenario-Ranking Teacher Key

The Race for Less Food Waste

These rankings are suggested, not universal. Food safety, time and temperature control, local policy, infrastructure, and available information may make another well-supported answer defensible.

SCENARIO	SUGGESTED RANKING	REASONING
1. **School Cafeteria**	1. Adjust future ordering. 2. Use a share table if policy and food-safety rules allow. 3. Compost where accepted. 4. Throw away or landfill.	Ordering fewer apples keeps extras from piling up every day. A share table lets students eat the apples already left over.
2. **Household**	1. Plan meals and buy less. 2. Cook or freeze before spoilage. 3. Compost after it is no longer edible. 4. Trash.	The first two choices prevent waste or keep food in use.
3. **Restaurant**	1. Improve forecasting. 2. Donate through an approved partner when safe and eligible. 3. Use an approved organics pathway. 4. Dispose.	Exact options depend on time and temperature control, local rules, and available partners.
4. **Class Event**	1-2. Compost where accepted and use another approved organics program; order or tie depends on the pathway. 3. Landfill when no accepted option is available.	Prevention and feeding people are no longer possible once only plate scraps and inedible peels remain.

Interpretation notes:

- Immediate action versus prevention: For the apples already left after lunch, an approved share table may be the best immediate action. Adjusting future ordering ranks first when students are considering the strongest long-term prevention strategy.
- The same distinction applies at the restaurant: approved donation may be the best immediate response, while better forecasting prevents repeated surplus.
- Composting and another organics pathway may be tied or reversed depending on the exact pathway, acceptance requirements, and local infrastructure.

Debrief prompts:

- Which scenario required the most information before deciding?
- When did prevention rank above composting or another recovery pathway?
- Did your group change an answer after hearing another perspective?
- Which decision could conserve the most resources over time?