Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Trash Talkin' Activity – Let's Talk Trash Worksheet

I. Prediction				
I predict tha	at our class generated	of trash this week.		
I think	% of it will be reusable,	% of it will be recyclable, and		
	% of it will be non-recyclable.			

Prediction:

Item	MASS OF TRASH			
item	Re-usable	Recyclable	Non-recyclable	Total
Food				
Paper				
Plastic				
Metal				
Glass				
Misc.				
Total				

Name:		Date:	
-------	--	-------	--

II. Analysis

How much total garbage did your class create this week? _____

Calculate the percents in each category and record them in the table below.

Example

Your class produced 19 pounds of trash this week. Of this, 2.5 pounds was re-useable paper.

 $2.5 \div 19 \times 100 = 13.2\%$ of the trash was re-useable paper.

Item	PERCENT OF TOTAL MASS			
	Re-usable	Recyclable	Non-recyclable	Total
Food				
Paper				
Plastic				
Metal				
Glass				
Misc.				
Total				100%

Create a pie chart of these results.

Na	me: Date:
III.	Discussion Questions
1.	Which of the categories has the most re-useable items (by mass)?
	Why do you think this is?
2.	Which of the categories has the most recyclable items (by mass)?
	Why do you think this is?
3.	Which of the categories has the most non-recyclable items (by mass)?
	Why do you think this is?
4.	Was your prediction for the total amount of trash close to correct?
	Are you surprised by how much trash your class generated? Explain why or why not.
5.	How many classes of students are there in your school?
	How much trash do the classrooms in your school generate every week?
	(Assume all the classes generate about as much trash as yours does and show your work
	below.)

Name:	Date:
IV. Conclusion	
Make some suggestions for what you think ha	appens to the waste from your school each week.
(Do not forget that in addition to the classroo	m waste, there is waste in the school office, the
restrooms, the lunch room, special activity ro	oms, etc.)
Based on the results of this investigation, sug	gest some ways that your classroom can reduce its
solid waste. How might an engineer work to	reduce solid waste?