

This is my experience with a “homeless” man carrying a large “Will Work for Food” sign. He was **living in the bushes** behind my husband's workplace. When police arrested him for **trespassing** and **vagrancy**, they found \$1,000 in his pockets. He told the police he made the money by standing at a busy **intersection** in the town with one of those signs. He also said he could never do as well working because he takes in \$500 to \$600 a day just holding up that sign. Think about this: If one person gave you a dollar everytime the car had to stop, and the signal changed 30 times an hour, and you stood there for eight hours a day, you could make \$240 a day. Realistically, the **figures** are probably much higher. I recently saw a family standing at a busy intersection holding these "homeless" signs. Not only this activity dangerous, it's also an emotional **blackmail**.



**Intersection**



**Vagrancy**



**Trespassing**

**Match the meanings in Column A to the words in Column B**

1. amount or value expressed in numbers.
2. not having a settled life or regular occupation.
3. beg money on the street or in a public area
4. go on the property of another without permission
5. place where two or more roads cross
6. act of frightening or embarrassing into making a payment of money

**A: Panhandle**  
**B: Trespass**  
**C: Vagrancy**  
**D: Intersection**  
**E: Figure**  
**F: Blackmail**

### Express Yourself

1. Do you usually give beggars money?
2. How much do you usually give?
3. Do you feel guilty when you give panhandlers  
nothing? Why or Why not?
4. Do you agree that panhandling is emotional  
blackmail? Why?
5. Do you think the government should permit  
panhandling? Why or Why not?