

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 place of employment. When police arrested him for **trespassing** and **vagrancy**, they found \$1,000 in cash in his pockets. He told the police he had 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 every time 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 is this activity dangerous, it’s also 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?