

Preparing for the Film

1. What are some of the issues affecting food production, purchase, and consumption that you are aware of?
2. What do you picture when you imagine where our food comes from? What mental images do you have of farms and ranches?
3. What can you imagine might be some difficulties for farmers and ranchers today?
4. What does the title *Food, Inc.* suggest will be the focus of the film?
5. What do you think the government's role should be in food production?
6. What are the challenges today for anyone shopping for groceries?
7. How has your diet changed in the last three years?

Reflecting on the Film

1. Contrast the images of farms that most people still believe exists with the reality of the factories that prepare our food. Include details from the film for support.
2. What were the unintended consequences of fast food restaurants on the food quality, costs, and working conditions in the restaurants and on farms?
3. What does the film capture about the chicken farms and the way the chicken is produced?
4. What does Michael Pollan reveal are the problems with growing so much corn?
5. What is E. coli and how does the film show its medical and political significance?
6. What does the film reveal about our government's involvement in the way our food is grown and sold?
7. What does the film illustrate about the choices poor people make in food purchasing?
8. Who is Joel Salatin and in what ways does he offer hope to people who want to improve the quality of their food?
9. In what specific ways does the film suggest that business can offer solutions to our food problems?
10. Summarize the problems farmers have had with the Monsanto Corporation.
11. What does the film reveal about the relationship between some specific government elected and appointed officials and the problems for consumers of food?
12. The film concludes with the optimism that citizens and consumers of food can vote three times a day about the food that they eat. What does the film specifically recommend?

Writing about the Film

1. Write an essay contrasting Joel Salatin's farm and values with the corporate farms and values. Include specific quotations and images from the film to support your claims.
2. Write an analysis of the hidden costs of fast food in terms of food quality, working conditions, and the health of humans and animals. Use specific quotations from Eric Schlosser and Michael Pollen for support.
3. Focusing on the subsidizing and increased production of corn and corn products, write an essay analyzing the dangers of "90% of products containing corn or a soybean ingredient

--or both." Include direct quotations from Michael Pollen as well as details about the Monsanto Corporation and their monopoly on soybean seeds.

4. Write an argument essay to convince others that changes in diet, food shopping, and lifestyle choices can make a significant impact on the food industry. Include specific details and direct quotations from the film to support your claims.
5. Write an analysis of the foods that you buy, prepare, and consume in one week. Argue that your costs compare favorably with the meals purchased at fast-food restaurants--or that you have not been able to achieve the economy of a drive-thru.
6. For a research assignment, you may want to explore the arguments from opponents of the film *Food, Inc.* The last three links under "Select Movie Reviews and Analyses" are written by authors whose stances oppose the film to different degrees. Also, in Karl B. Weber's book *Food, Inc.*, you will find essays that both support and oppose the film. Choosing readings that favor the film and those that oppose it, write an argument to support your own thesis and argument about industrial food.

Works Cited

Foods, Inc. Dir. Robert Kenner. Narrated by Michael Pollan and Eric Schlosser. Co-producers: Eric Schlosser, Richard Pearce, and Melissa Robledo. Magnolia Pictures and River Road Entertainment, 2008. DVD.

Food, Inc.: A Participant Guide: How Industrial Food Is Making Us Sicker, Fatter, and Poorer-- And What You Can Do About It. Ed. Karl B. Weber. New York: Perseus Books Group, Public Affairs, 2009. Print.

Pringle, Peter. *Food, Inc.: Mendel to Monsanto--the Promises and Perils of the Biotech Harvest.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 2003. Print.. (The content of this text is not directly related to the film even though they share the same title and subject matter.)

Select Film Reviews and Critical Analyses

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/12/movies/12food.html?_r=0

<http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/food-inc-2009>

<http://www.sustainabletable.org/115/film-review-food-inc>

http://www.texasgrassfedbeef.com/food_inc_review.htm

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/03/opinion/we-need-gmo-wheat.html?nl=opinion&emc=edit_ty_20140203&_r=1

<http://www.monsanto.com/food-inc/Pages/default.aspx>