Name: Per: Date:

Food Inc. Discussion Questions

**Pick/Circle 5** of the following questions and respond on the following page(s). **DUE WEDNESDAY (2/3)**

1. Should we give animals the right to a certain quality of life or are they merely products? Why?
2. What responsibility do individuals and consumers have for the treatment of chickens or other food animals? The government? Companies?
3. Do people have the right to know what is in their food? How does that help?
4. What can people do to be better informed about what is in the foods they eat?
5. Who's responsible for keeping our food safe?
6. What adverse affects does increased regulations and governmental oversight on the food industry have on the consumer?
7. Who is responsible for the toddler Kevin's death from E. coli? The burger restaurant salesman? The meat distributer? The meat packing plant worker? The federal court judges? The farmer who fed the cow corn? Why? What if that person didn't mean to or know it was contaminated?
8. What are the "unintended consequences" of feeding cattle cheap and abundant corn?
9. Should access to healthy food be a right for everyone? Why or why not?
10. How have our government policies affected the types and costs of available foods?
11. How does the cheap price of food affect low-income families? How can this be changed?
12. Do people really have to choose between cheap unhealthy food and expensive healthy food or is there a change of priorities needed? (ie. cable tv, cell phones, extra cars, cigarettes, eating out, etc)
13. Do you think healthy eating should be a right, a responsibility or a privilege? Explain.
14. Is ok for companies to recruit foreign workers of they can't find local people to do the work? What are the repercussions of that?
15. Keith Ludlum in the film says, "They have the same mentality toward workers as they do towards the hogs." What do you think about that statement? If it is true, how might that influence the treatment of both workers and hogs?
16. When a person chooses to eat fast food or meat, who else does this decision affect?
17. How is illegal immigration connected to the food we eat? Is that a problem? Why?
18. Does it matter to you which companies produce your food? Why or why not?
19. Cost and efficiency drive our current food system. Should price be the most important force? Why or why not?
20. What are the benefits of GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)? What are the adverse affects? Which outweighs? Why?
21. Intellectual property can be defined as creations of the mind (ie. music, art, writing, inventions, images, names, etc.) that have commercial value. In the US they are legally protected. Should those be protected for the creator/owner? Why or why not?
22. How could information about a food raise or lower your fear about it? Is it worth it to know?
23. How effective are labels and warnings on products? Is there a more effective way?
24. People who have been in the industry are knowledgeable about that industry. What are the pros and cons of them becoming regulators working for the government?
25. What individual or collective actions are you willing to take to improve our food system, and what would be their impact?
26. How can our purchasing habits and choices change the food system?
27. There is plenty of research showing healthful food makes people feel better, have more energy, and stay well. Do you think if more people knew this, they would make better food choices? Why or why not?

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