

Food Inc Viewing Guide

From Food to Fast Food.

How has what we eat in America become industrialized? What evidence is there of this industrialization?

In what ways are social inequalities being reproduced in the manufacturing of chickens? That is how are the social conditions of the people who work for food corporations related to the physical conditions that chickens are produced in?

A Cornucopia of choice

Why do we overproduce corn? What social policies and social interests are involved?

Unintended Consequences

Why are government regulators not protecting the American health and safety?

What is the connection between the consolidation of food manufacturing and the food contamination crises? Why are we more vulnerable to contamination now that we have just a few super producers of food?

Efficiency is a central component of rationality, how has the pursuit of increased efficiency in food production led to seemingly irrational choices by the food industry?

When there are crises in the system of food production what solutions do the food corporations turn to? What impact does this have?

The Dollar Menu

What role does economic inequality and how we structure our communities play in the food choices many people in the U.S.?

Why are “bad calories” cheaper? Could this be a possible area to create social change?

Questions for Discussion - Food, Inc.

- Do you believe that the issues addressed in Food, Inc. are relevant in your country? Which issues are and which issues are not?
- As consumers, do we have the right to know where our food comes from, how animals are treated and how agriculture is grown?
- Whose responsibility do you think it is to inform us about what is in our food? Is it our responsibility to find out, the producer's responsibility to make it more clear, the stores, government or all of them? Why do you think so?
- What kinds of actions have you taken to make a change (what kind of changes?) at home, at school, or in the community? What was effective? What wasn't?
- Should a company have the power to decide what information to give consumers about the food it produces?
- What are other things we can do—either individually or collectively—to encourage our families, our friends, or others around us to make changes in their lives toward food that is more healthful and environmentally sustainable?
- What individual or collective actions are you willing to take to improve our food system, and what would be their impact? Can you take these actions without getting into trouble with your friends, community, local or national government?
- Who do you think should have the power to decide food policies, laws about food safety, and other food-related matters? Are any of these individuals, groups, or organizations doing it now and if yes, how is it working?