Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Food Inc. - Chapter 1: Fast Food
Discussion Questions

1. The packaging of meat, milk and eggs often shown pictures of idyllic farms, with little red barns and trees etc. Words like *Nature, Harvest, Country, Valley,* etc. are often used. How does the reality of how the animals that are used to produce the milk, meat and eggs are raised compare to that image?

2. Do you feel that this type of marketing is misleading?

3. A. In the 1970s what percentage of the meat packing industry was controlled by the top 5 companies?

 B. Today (2008) what percentage of the meat packing industry is controlled by the top 4 companies?

 C. Can you think of any problems that are created by this centralization of the industry?

4. Describe how the growth of chickens has changed since the 1950s.

5. Why were the film makers not permitted inside of Vince’s chicken house?

6. Why did Carole allow the film makers inside of her chicken houses? What were the consequences for her?

Food Inc. - Chapter 2: Cornucopia of Choices
Discussion Questions

1. In the film, food science Professor Larry Johnson says, “If you go and look on the supermarket shelf, I’ll bet you 90 percent of the products would contain either a corn or soybean ingredient. And most of the time, it’ll contain both.” Why might it be a problem that the majority of our food is made from corn and soybeans—such that nearly everything we eat contains them?
2. Many of us were surprised to learn that corn is so prevalent in our foods. Why do you think we were so surprised? Do you think the government and food producers have kept it a secret? Why don’t more people know this fact?
3. Food labels actually do list corn-based ingredients, but not always in a recognizable way. How do you feel about ingredients being included in your diet without your knowledge?
4. 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, or both? Why do you think so?
5. If people are responsible for informing themselves about what is in their food, what would help them be more informed? If producers are responsible, what would be the more effective ways for them to inform people?
6. The movie points out that cows and farm-raised fish, which are not biologically suited to eating corn, are now given a modified diet that is based on corn. Do you think people’s diets have been modified in a similar way? How do you feel about the possibility of your food being modified without you being aware of it?

Food Inc. - Chapter 3: Unintended Consequences
Discussion Questions

1. Who’s responsible for Kevin’s death?
2. You are a salesperson at the restaurant who sold the hamburger to Kevin’s mom. Are you responsible?
3. You are the meat distributor who sold the meat to the restaurant. You weren’t aware that the meat was contaminated. Are you responsible?
4. What about the federal court judges who said that the government doesn’t have the authority to shut down a meatpacking plant that repeatedly fails contaminant tests. Should they be held partly responsible?
5. What about the people who started feeding corn to cows in the first place? Should they be held partly responsible?
6. If any of these people didn’t intend for Kevin to die, does that get them off the hook? Imagine that you accidentally hit and killed someone while driving your car. You didn’t mean to hurt the person and you are very sorry about it. Does that mean you are not responsible?
7. If a particular party is responsible for Kevin’s death, what do you think the consequences or repercussions should be?
8. Do we have the right to assume that our food is safe? If so, who do you think should be responsible for ensuring its safety?