

Food Inc. and Modern Agriculture Reflective Questions

Click the link to watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Oq24hITFTY>

In small groups, discuss these questions after viewing the movie *Food Inc.* Use your notes from the movie as a source of details for your answers. Write a response to each numbered statement or question.

- 1) Evaluate the environmental consequences of commercial agricultural practices. What environmental systems are affected by land use/land cover change, and how are they affected (e.g., irrigation, desertification, deforestation, wetland destruction, conservation efforts, feedlots, antibiotics, etc)?
- 2) Analyze how human activities change and impact the physical environment and explain using specific examples from prior presentations or Videos.
- 3) What challenges do changes in food production and consumption present? What opportunities?
- 4) Pick two specific examples from the list of debates presented in *Food Inc.* below and explain how the innovation has produced debate - what are the upsides and the down sides for each innovation. Innovations categories: biotechnology, genetically modified organisms, organic farming, aquaculture.
- 5) Environmental issues related to agriculture include sustainability, soil degradation, reduction in biodiversity, overgrazing, river and aquifer depletion, animal wastes, and extensive fertilizer and pesticide use. Pick two and explain how they arise and what solutions are available (if any) to address that problem.
- 6) Patterns of food production and consumption are influenced by food-choice issues (Agribusiness foods (cheap and fast) versus organic farming, value-added specialty crops, fair trade, local-food movements. Where do you come down on this choice? Explain yourself
- 7) Describe patterns of production and consumption of the agricultural commodities that are traded among nations.