

Synopsis:

The global financial meltdown that took place in Fall 2008 caused millions of job and home losses and plunged the United States into a deep economic recession. Matt Damon narrates a documentary that provides a detailed examination of the elements that led to the collapse and identifies key financial and political players. Director Charles Ferguson conducts a wide range of interviews and traces the story from the United States to China to Iceland to several other global financial hot spots.

[Movie Website](#)

Key Terms

- **Dividend** - Money from the profits of a company that is paid out to its shareholders, typically on a quarterly basis

Inside Job

While You Watch

Name:

Period:

While You Watch:

1. How many people became unemployed as a result of the 2008 financial crisis?
 - a. 30 million

2. By the late 1990's, _____ were a \$50 trillion unregulated market.
 - a. Derivatives

3. According to Goldman Sachs in 2006, on average what percentage of the price of a house were borrowers borrowing?
 - a. 99.3%

4. By early 2010, foreclosures in the United States reached _____.
 - a. 6 million

5. How many lobbyists does the financial sector employ?
 - a. 3,000

Discussion Questions:

- 6. In the film, Professor Frank Partnoy introduces the scenario, “You’re going to make an extra two million dollars a year, or ten million dollars a year, for putting your financial institution at risk. Someone else pays the bill...would you make that bet? Most people who worked on Wall Street said ‘Sure.’” What would you choose in this situation?**

- 7. How should institutions weigh the relative importance of personal profit and the customer’s best interest?**

- 8. Reflect on the causes of the 2008 financial crisis. What must be done to prevent a similar crisis?**

- 9. Should those in power during the financial crisis have faced harsher consequences? Explain why or why not.**

- 10. To what extent should the government be permitted to regulate the financial sector?**