

FAST FOOD NATION

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Lesson Plan
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Objectives: Through this discussion, students should begin to:

- 1) meet other students and faculty;
- 2) learn and share relevant information;
- 3) think critically about the systems of business, agriculture, healthcare of our world.

Introduction [5 min]: Professor will introduce self, book and some upcoming topics.

Round-Robin [10 minutes]: Students introduce themselves with name, hometown, proposed major and favorite fast food item (if they have one).

Discussion Questions [20 minutes]: Break into groups of 4-5; spend 5 minutes on each following question before returning to share with the larger group. Each person is encouraged to be the “presenter” to the large group once.

- 1) **Agriculture:** Where does our food come from? What are your concerns about the agriculture system itself? Concepts to consider: environment, health, family farms, agribusiness, ethics, sustainability.
- 2) **Consumer Health:** Do you eat fast food? Have you ever been sick from fast food or other food? Are chronic health (long term) conditions like high blood pressure, cancer, high cholesterol, etc. less or more important than acute issues like food poisoning?
- 3) **Labor, Law and Ethics:** What are the responsibilities of employers? Employees? The government? Consumers? How do you feel about the term “consumer”?
- 4) **Business/Psychology/Sociology:** What is your favorite ad? Why? Are there things that should not be advertised? Why or why not? How do you feel about ads aimed at small children?

Sharing with the Large Group [15-20 minutes]: Return to the large group. For each focus question, one member of each group should present its key findings (approximately 1 minute per group). Think about how the themes relate to your proposed major, your life, your family and friends. Remember, share the opportunity to present to the group.

Closing [5-10 minutes]: “Best and Worst” – once more around the group: what have you learned, what are your favorite or most painful thoughts? Encourage students to keep thinking about these issues, how they relate to your studies, your family, friends and life.