Potential Essay Topics:

1. Workers issues (“The Most Dangerous Job”; “Life on 7.25 an hour”; “Cogs in the Great Machine”; “Behind the Counter”)

-Minimum wage

-Corporate greed (companies lie to workers about jobs; companies maximize profits)

-Worker safety

-Worker health

-Lack of benefits

-Migrant workers

-Women’s issues (harassment, sexual assault)

-Hours

-Disposable (high turnover rate)

-Teens/older workers in fast food industry

-Crime (in fast food)

-Unskilled/lack of training

-Reliance on part time workers in fast food

-Fast food companies use tax benefits to increase turnover rates of workers and save money

-Unfair pay policies (workers can’t clock in until it’s busy, workers on call, worked almost full time, or forced to work overtime without being paid)

-Poverty

2. Inhumane treatment of animals (*Eating Animals* and Michael Pollan *Omnivore’s Dilemma*)

-Hormones

-Genetically engineered to gain weight (poultry) and can’t move because of it

-Transported animals not given food or water during transport to slaughter

-Unsanitary conditions (cows stand knee high in waste)

-Cows do not always die when they are knocked (some cows are butchered alive)

-FDA stopped recording this data (Eating Animals)

-CAFOs

-Animal confinement

-Diseased animals are slaughtered

-Suffering vs. Pain (self-mutilating chickens)

3. Environmental issues (“Climate Crisis”)

-Emissions (methane from cattle farming)

-Global Warming

-Transportation of food

-Air pollution

-Fossil fuel consumption

-Waste

-Water pollution

-Overuse of resources

-Deforestation

4. Lack of Governmental oversight and regulation (Transparency) (*Food Inc.,* *FFN* “Introduction”)

-Slaughterhouses do not allow people inside to see what is happening

-President of Meatpacking industry was head of FDA

-Government officials in jobs to protect the people have business interests within the field

-Food industry regularly supports governmental officials’ candidacies

5. Consumer issues (*Food Inc*.)

-marketing to impoverished by fast food

-Poverty

-Skewed the food system to the bad calories

-Waste problem

-Marketing manipulation

-Safety issues (E. coli contamination)

-Health issues (diabetes, obesity, etc.)