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.)