**English 80**

**Homework #10: Fast Food Nation Introduction Reading Questions**

Use a direct quotation with a proper quote sandwich to support each answer. Remember, a quote alone is not the answer! Answer the question in your own words and support that answer with a quotation from the reading.

1. How does Eric Schlosser put into perspective the incredible amount of money Americans spend on fast food?
2. How have the changing economics since the 1970s affected the growth of the fast food industry?
3. What are some of the effects of the “McDonaldization of America” (5)?
4. How has the explosion of the restaurant industry affected workers?
5. How has fast food altered the American diet?
6. How has the government impacted the rise of the fast food industry?
7. How has the fast food industry impacted agriculture?
8. How have politics impacted food safety in the US?
9. What problems with the meat recall process in the US does Scholsser outline?
10. What solutions to the problem with contaminated meat are the USDA and meatpacking industry focusing on? What issues does the author suggest they should be focusing on instead?
11. What is the problem with the staffing of the US Department of Agriculture under Reagan and Bush? What likely impacts on safety and regulations do you think these staffing choices had?
12. What problems ultimately lead to the discontinuance of SIS-C?
13. How did the Clinton administration tighten inspection requirements?
14. When Upton Sinclair first exposed the dangers of the meatpacking industry in the early 1900s, Thomas Wilson, head of the Beef Trust responded to requests for further sanitation requirements with: "[I]n all reasonable fairness *we are paying all we care to pay"* (205). What did he mean by this statement and how has his attitude become the norm for the meatpacking industry?