Homework #12: *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer

Answer each question below in a minimum of three complete sentences. Use a quote to back up your answers.

1. What is Foer’s aim in writing this book? In other words, is this chapter meant to be informative, persuasive, or entertaining, etc.? Include evidence in your answer that shows the author’s intent.
2. What was the USDA response to Temple Grandin’s research that showed that most slaughterhouses were unable to properly knock out a cow with one blow from the knocker?
3. Foer states that “if [cows] survive the first blow, they sure as hell appear to know they are fighting for their lives” (231). What is the effect of his use of the word “hell”? How does this impact your understanding of his book, his tone, or his trustworthiness?
4. How does working at a slaughterhouse impact workers?
5. What is the effect of Foer’s use of testimonials from slaughterhouse workers? Is it persuasive? How does he use this evidence to further his claims?
6. Foer admits that there are holes in his research. Why isn’t it possible for him to get the complete story on what occurs within slaughterhouses?
7. According to Foer, what is “the single biggest factor preventing the emergence of tolerable turkey and chicken farms” (235)?
8. Even when a farmer like Frank Reese is able to implement more humane and natural practices of raising animals, what roadblocks still stand in his way that prevent a sustainable and wholly humane process of raising animals?
9. What is the purpose of the italicized section, “I Am a Vegan Who Builds Slaughterhouses” (238)? In other words, why did Foer include it and why is it in italics? Is this section effective?
10. According to Foer, what is “a ranch ethic” and how can such an ethic act as a critique of factory farming (239)?