Sample Body Paragraph (E2)

Food work has become an increasingly dangerous job for workers. Eric Schlosser has argued that “[m]eatpacking is now the most dangerous job” in America, with injury rates three times that of other factories (172). These injury rates are largely due to quick line speeds that leave little room for error. Although injury rates are high, data may not reflect actual injury rates as supervisors often receive bonuses for maintaining low injury and accident rates. Workers are therefore discouraged from reporting injuries. Schlosser writes, “The annual bonuses of plant foremen and supervisors are often based in part on the injury rate of their workers. Instead of creating a safer workplace, these bonus schemes encourage slaughterhouse managers to make sure that accidents and injuries go unreported” (175). Of course major and obvious injuries cannot be hidden, but the more common and silent injuries, such as “torn muscles, slipped discs, [and] pinched nerves,” may not make it onto injury reports (175). Workers are further discouraged from reporting injuries because their jobs are often on the line. Schlosser explains, “Injured workers are often given some of the most unpleasant tasks in the slaughterhouse. Their hourly wages are cut. And through a wide variety of unsubtle means they are encouraged to quit” (175). When workers know that they may be demoted or forced to quit because of an injury, they are less likely to report or seek treatment for a work related injury. This further increases their risk for accidents and permanent disability. While slaughterhouse work poses the most serious threats to workers within the food industry, fast food work is not without its risks.