

Film: Food Chains. (2014) – Discussion Guide

1. Please, read this guide before watching the film *Food Chains*.
2. While watching the film take notes that would help you to answer the questions.
3. After watching the film answer the questions and submit them on Blackboard by April 22 by 4:00pm.
4. We will have a class discussion on *Wednesday April 22*.

A. The movie points out that supermarkets are not ruled by a "free-market economy" but by a "**monopsony**". What does "monopsony" mean? How is monopsony affecting farmers?

B. "Farmworkers are generally paid by the piece rather than strictly by the hour" Foodchainsfilm.com
Tomatopickers in Immokalee are required to pick a minimum of 480 pounds of fruit per hour to make around \$42 for an nine-hour shift; for **how much money would you be willing to do this work? What else might you demand? If you would require a large amount of money to do this work, how would the company meet your demand? How would they cover the additional cost? If you say that no amount of money would beenough, what alternatives would the company have, since people like you will not do the work?**

C. In the film, Father Brinkle says that in the Napa Valley there is an "**economic apartheid**"; what does he mean by that expression?

D. According to the film, raising \$4 million in charity in the Napa Valley does absolutely nothing to enable farmers to live a life closer in material terms to the one that donors live. Who do you think is benefiting from the Napa Valley vintners auction?

E. How is the history of the agriculture industry in the U.S. connected to immigration?

GRADING RUBRIC

√++ (97-100%): indicates exceptionally thorough, sophisticated understanding and application of the material, no typographical or grammatical errors, prose is clear and mature, followed *all* directions completely and precisely, cited all relevant course materials appropriately (including text, readings, films, etc.).

√+ (90-96%): indicates very thorough understanding and application of the material, very few technical errors, followed *all* directions completely, prose is clear, cited relevant course materials appropriately most of the time.

√ (80-89%): indicates that you were thorough, you followed the instructions, addressed *all* the questions fairly completely, and/or there may have been some grammatical/technical errors, and/or lacked clarity on a few points, and/or cited course materials but not completely consistently, and/or relied mainly on 2 or 3 sources (eg, powerpoints, lab manual, and textbook) but failed to cite other relevant materials in many cases throughout.

√- (70-79%): indicates that you pretty much got the main point but should have been more thorough, and/or you failed to follow *all* the instructions, and/or you answered most but not all of the questions and/or your answers were confused, and/or your answers lacked clarity or specificity and may have been too vague, and/or there were too many technical errors and it was difficult to understand what you meant, and/or cited course materials some of the time but relied almost entirely on only 1 or 2 sources (eg, powerpoints and textbook).

√-- (69% or lower): indicates that you missed the main point of the assignment, and/or you didn't follow directions, and/or you didn't answer all the questions, and/or your answers were very vague and only addressed a part of the question(s), and/or there were so many technical errors that your meaning(s) was lost, and/or you didn't cite appropriate course materials at all or did so very rarely.