

# FOOD, INC.

A film documentary by Robert Kenner  
Length : 1 hour 30 minutes approx.

Links to view the film on youtube:

In English : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KpaKi3IOJs&t=48s>

Dubbed in Italian : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkMAIGuZe2g>

After watching the film, please answer the questions below in English:

## Questions to be answered using the documentary

- 1) The documentary claims that 'all food has become fast food'. What are the justifications behind this claim? What are the exceptions?
- 2) How have the McDonald's brothers changed the restaurant and food industry?
- 3) How many days did it take to grow a chicken for slaughtering in 1950 and how many in 2008? How was this change possible?
- 4) Many farmers are unhappy with the way they have been asked by big multi-national companies to treat their animals. Why don't they refuse?
- 5) When we go to the supermarket we appear to have a wide variety of products. In what way is this choice deceptive?
- 6) Cows would naturally eat grass. However, the main food used for cows in the meat industry in the US is corn. Why is this so (think about economic factors) and what problems has this caused (economic and health)? What specific and deadly illness has been associated with this?
- 7) Multi-national companies sell their corn at a price 'below the cost of production'. This means that multi-national companies sell their corn at \$3 for example when it cost them \$4 to grow it.
  - a) How is this made possible?
  - b) What are the consequences of this for farmers in the US and farmers in foreign countries where the cheaper corn is sold on the market?
- 8) It costs more money in terms of production to create a hamburger or a beef burger than to grow carrots or other vegetables. How is it possible then that this food is being sold at cheaper prices?
- 9) Monsanto genetically modified the soy-bean to make it resistant to their pesticides. They succeeded in patenting this modification which means that every GM soya-bean seed is now property of Monsanto. Normally, farmers save some seeds every year from their crops in order to plant the following year. Why is this no longer possible for the soy-bean? What has happened to US soy-bean farmers who have tried to remain independent from Monsanto?
- 10) Why was Oprah Winfrey sued?
- 11) One farmer in the film says: 'if we treat our animals as nothing more than products to use as we want while our only concern is the amount of money we can make from them, then it is likely that we will treat other people from a different religion, country or culture also as commodities to be used in the same way.' In what way are his words proved right by the way the meat industry treats its immigrant workers?

12) The film ends on a positive note. How can we as consumers make a difference? If we are not happy with the way the food that reaches our supermarket is produced, what can we do?

13) Someone in the film comments, 'When you buy a car, you don't just look for the cheapest available. Why do we behave so differently in the supermarket?'. Why do you think we are willing to spend money on luxury items like cars, phones, perfume and new clothes but we often try to save money at the supermarket? What are the reasons behind this? What are the consequences of this? – to our health? And to our society? And to the food industry?

14) What was your reaction to the documentary? What comments do you have?

15) Do a little research – where can you buy locally grown or organic food in or around Bologna? Are there any farmers' markets? Are there any restaurants / pubs / bars / bakeries etc in or around Bologna that sell food that is not mass-produced?