



Seegerstrom High School

"A Fundamental School"

SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Amy Avina, Principal

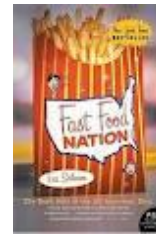
June 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians of Incoming 11th Grade AP Language and Composition Students:

- Welcome to AP Language and Composition! Seegerstrom's Instructional Focus is "Read! Write! Learn!" For many students, this summer reading assignment will be their first experience reading an extended work of non-fiction, so it is important to read and complete all tasks carefully. All texts will be provided to students by program verification in August; however, students who want to get a head start on the reading can find the books at local bookstores and/or libraries.

All students must complete the following summer-reading assignment in preparation for the AP class:

- Read our schoolwide novel, Roldand Smith's *Peak*. Students will take an exam on this novel in **the third week of the school year**. No written work is required with this novel; however, it is expected that students will have a detailed understanding of the novel and be able to discuss it with insight.
- Read Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation* and complete the attached study guide questions. You will receive your copy of this book during program verification in August. Students will take an examination on this novel in **the fifth week of the school year**. Students will, however, receive additional assignments once the school year begins, so it is recommended that students start (and hopefully complete) this assignment during the summer.



Expectations for Student Work:

- It is expected that students complete the written assignments according to the directions by the dates listed. These assignments will be a part of their grade for the first six-week grading period. Students will complete multiple-choice/matching examinations to assess their understanding of each of these texts. **The exam results will count towards the student's grade in English class.** Failure to complete the reading assignment will negatively affect the student's grade.

Please direct any questions to Mrs. DeVries at linda.miller1@sausd.us, Ms. Bates at jamie.bates@sausd.us or Mr. Wilson at joe.wilson@sausd.us.

Sincerely,

The Seegerstrom English Department

Fast Food Nation Guided Reading Questions

Directions: While or after reading each chapter of *Fast Food Nation*, write a **minimum** of three sentences answering each question. You must answer the question using information from the book. This will be due the third week of school.

Introduction

1. How does the fast food industry embody the best and worst of American capitalism?
2. What political and social factors enabled the fast food industry to prosper during the past thirty years?
3. How is the 'American world view' embodied in the fast food industry?

Chapter 1: The Founding Fathers (Histories of numerous fast food companies)

4. What elements of Southern California "culture" contributed to and encouraged the development of fast food restaurants?

Chapter 2: Your Trusted Friends (Marketing, especially to children)

5. How are Walt Disney and Ray Kroc similar and different in the ways they developed their enterprises. At what points did they cooperate?
6. How does the fast food industry's market to children? Why do some consider it unethical to target children, especially using advertising in schools?

Chapter 3: Behind the Counter (Employees and their treatment)

7. Who are the employees of fast food restaurants and why are these particularly groups usually hired?
8. Why have fast food workers not unionized and what tactics have management used to defeat union efforts?
9. Most fast food workers are non-union. How has this circumstance affected employee working conditions?
10. How safe are the working conditions at fast food restaurants, and what are the typical dangers employees encounter in their work places? How are safety issues typically handled in the workplace?

Chapter 4: Success (The development of franchising)

11. Eric Schlosser states, "Becoming a franchisee is an odd combination of starting your own business and going to work for someone else." What are the advantages of starting your own business and what are the disadvantages? What are the advantages of working for someone else and what are the disadvantages?
12. What legal issues have been involved with fast food franchises?

Chapter 5: Why the Fries Taste Good (Potato-growing and processing and how foods are flavored and colored artificially)

13. Why are family farms disappearing; in particular, why are there few small potato farmers?
14. How does the take-over of agriculture by corporate farms change the social and economic structure of rural communities?

Chapter 6: On the Range (The ranching industry)

15. How do development pressures and the dictates of the fast food industry affect the cattle business?
16. How have the myth of the cowboy and the image of the hard-working rancher become irrelevant in today's rural culture?
17. Historically, government has protected businesses against trusts, monopolies, and price fixing. How has government's role been changed to allow corporate domination in such industries as cattle-raising and meat processing?
18. How has the fast food industry changed the traditional chicken farmer into little more than a share-cropper or "serf"?
19. When individual farmers and ranchers lose their land to the conglomerates, they lose more than just dollars and cents. Eric Schlosser says, "The land that has been lost is not just a commodity." What does this mean and what does 'land' represent in farm culture? What did it mean to Native Americans who occupied the area before 'civilization'?

Chapter 7: Cogs in the Great Machine (The meat-packing industry)

20. How have the demands of the fast food industry changed the social structure and character of towns involved in cattle raising and meat-processing?

Chapter 8: The Most Dangerous Job (Worker safety in meat-processing plants)

21. According to Eric Schlosser, "Meatpacking is now the most dangerous job in the United States." What makes the job so dangerous, and how are injured workers typically treated, administratively and medically? Why?

Chapter 9: What's in the Meat (E. coli and other foodborne pathogens in meat)

22. How has the meat-processing/meatpacking industry been a spreader of disease and what elements in meatpacking are the cause of most meat contamination?
23. After reading about foodborne pathogens that can be in hamburger meat, are you concerned about food poisoning when you eat at a fast food restaurant? How common is E. coli in restaurant foods?

Chapter 10: Global Realization (American fast food presence abroad and health effects of fast food)

24. Why are so many Americans obese and what part might fast food play in this relatively recent development? How do Americans compare with people in other countries in terms of obesity?
25. Why have fast food companies increased the size of their portions and how might that affect Americans' health?

26. Why do some people in other countries object to American fast food companies setting up business in their neighborhoods? To what do they object?

Epilogue: Have it Your Way (What can be done to solve the problems inherent in the domination of the fast food industry)

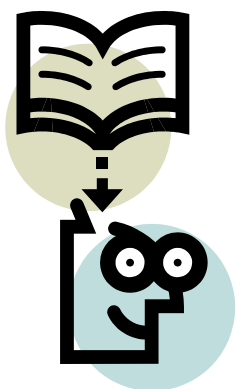
27. Discuss the 'free market' concept. Eric Schlosser says this concept "has cloaked changes in the nation's economy that bear little relation to real competition or freedom of choice." To what is he referring? (260)

28. Eric Schlosser says on page 261, "Over the past twenty years the United States has swung too far in one direction, weakening the regulations that safeguard workers, consumers, and the environment. An economic system promising freedom has too often become a means of denying it, as the narrow dictates of the market gain precedence over more important democratic values." Do you agree? Discuss. (261)

29. As discussed in the Epilogue, what suggestions does the author make to remedy some of his criticisms of fast food culture?

Afterword: The Meaning of Mad Cow

30. What is Mad Cow Disease, how does it proliferate, and how can it be controlled? What dangers does it pose and what causes cattle to be infected with it? Is it a serious threat to humans?



Students:
Please return this page to your current English teacher by this Friday

All incoming Advanced Placement English Language and Composition students (11th grade honors course) must complete the following summer-reading assignment in preparation for their English classes:

All students must complete the following summer-reading assignment in preparation for the AP class:

- Read our schoolwide novel, Roldand Smith's *Peak*. Students will take an exam on this novel in **the third week of the school year**. No written work is required with this novel; however, it is expected that students will have a detailed understanding of the novel and be able to discuss it with insight.
- Read Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation* and complete the attached study guide questions. You will receive your copy of this book during program verification in August. Students will take an examination on this novel in **the fifth week of the school year**. Students will, however, receive additional assignments once the school year begins, so it is recommended that students start (and hopefully complete) this assignment during the summer.

Parents: Please sign, indicating you have discussed with your student the summer assignment and required reading for the 2012-2013 school year.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Students: Please sign, indicating you are aware of the summer reading assignment and the consequences of not completing the assignment according to the deadlines outlined above.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Student ID Number