

The Future of Food Video Guide  
Adapted from Food Democracy Project

Task: As you watch the film, *The Future of Food*, answer the following questions.

1. What is your initial reaction to the film?	
2. Were you aware of genetically engineered food before this film?	
3. Though thousands of corn and potato varieties exist, why do you think the US groceries only stock one or two varieties?	
4. What other products has Monsanto created in addition to Roundup?	
5. How is genetic engineering an “invasive” method?	
6. Why does genetic engineering rely on viruses and antibiotics to be spliced with DNA? What are the potential problems with this?	
7. What are the susceptibilities of monoculture crops?	
8. What are the effects of “super weeds” on farmers?	
9. How might corporate and political conflicts of interest affect the FDA and the EPA’s regulation of genetically engineered foods?	
10. What are landraces and how do they relate to plant diversity?	
11. Why is it cheaper for Mexicans to import American corn instead of growing their own?	
12. Do you think life should be patented? Why or why not?	
13. How do large corporations in the food system affect small farmers?	
14. What do biotechnology industries do to scientists who are critical of genetic engineering or modification?	
15. How did patents disrupt research on the breast cancer gene?	
16. How does the food industry consolidation affect consumer choice?	
17. What are commonly held beliefs about the cause of world starvation?	
18. Can genetically engineered foods end world starvation?	
19. How does the subsidization of crops in one country affect the world markets in other countries?	
20. What are “Terminator Seeds?”	
21. How do “Terminator Seeds” affect farmers?	

22. Why do you think the US is co-owner of the “Terminator Seeds” patent?	
23. What are concerns associated with “pharming” or the insertion of drugs into foods?	
24. What is sustainable agriculture?	
25. How many miles does the average food travel from production to market in the US?	
26. What is organic food?	
27. How might our ideas of scale have to change in order for agriculture to be sustainable, organic and local?	
28. South Dakota, Nebraska, and eight other states passed legislation banning non-family owned farming. Do you agree this was their right? What about the “free market?”	
29. Should genetically engineered or modified foods be labeled for consumers?	
30. What is your overall impression of the film?	
31. Were all “positions” represented in the film?	
32. Are you personally concerned about your consumption of genetically engineered or modified foods? How?	
33. What might you do about this issue?	