

Name: _____

Film Study: Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

1. Why do you think Lee Scott, President and CEO of Wal-Mart, says that Wal-Mart has, “generated fear, if not envy in some circles”? _____

2. Why can't small businesses compete with Wal-Mart? _____

3. What advantages do small businesses have over Wal-Mart? _____

4. What incentives do local governments provide Wal-Mart to encourage it to come to their communities? Why do you think they encourage them in the first place?

5. What negative effects does Wal-Mart have on communities?

a. Property values: _____

b. Local businesses: _____

c. Town Centers: _____

d. Traditional community cohesiveness: _____

6. How does Wal-Mart keep labor expenses low?

a. Employees: _____

b. Wages: _____

c. Benefits: _____

d. Government Welfare Programs: _____

7. How does Wal-Mart discourage organized labor (unions)? _____

8. How does Wal-Mart get more work out of its employees without adding to its labor costs?

9. What do critics say about how Wal-Mart treats employees who are women and visible minorities? _____

10. Why does Wal-Mart build its stores on the edges of municipalities? _____

Name: _____

11. What problems are created when large corporations like Wal-Mart is supported with government (taxpayer) revenue? _____

12. Why was Donna Lisenby, Catawba Riverkeeper, frustrated with Wal-Mart's reaction to the environmental concerns she raised about the storage of fertilizer on Wal-Mart parking lots?

13. How does the film describe conditions in Wal-Mart's factories in China? _____

14. How do Wal-Mart's business practices affect world's business standards? _____

15. Are there any other companies with similar business practices like Wal-Mart that you are aware of? _____

16. Do you think the government should step in and regulate business practices for companies such as Wal-Mart or should they not and be allowed to continue to use the free market economy for their advantage in this way?
