Writing Assignment #5

1) Watch the cyber-video “The Meatrix”

http://www.themeatrix.com/
http://www.themeatrix.com/action/index.html

2) Read Poultry.Org, “Worker Exploitation” and other parts.

http://www.poultry.org/labor.htm
http://www.poultry.org/suffering.htm
http://www.poultry.org/health.htm
http://www.poultry.org/environment.htm

3) Read the Schlosser, “Fast Food Nation,” parts one and two.

http://www.mcspeciallight.org/media/press/rollingstone1.html
http://www.mcspeciallight.org/media/press/rollingstone2.html

4) In view of “Fast Food Nation,” “The Meatrix,” and Poultry.Org, describe some aspect of fast food of your choice in terms of the relations between consumer, laborer, capitalist, and nation-state. Then return to “The Meatrix” and examine its recommended consumer-activist actions. Why aren’t most of us aware of such problems? Why don’t most of us take action about them? What might you and others do to take action against the excesses of some particular part of the fast food industry (from production to marketing to consumption)?

For your information:

“Point & Click Produce Aisle”
http://www.ewg.org/foodnews/produceaisle.php
http://www.ewg.org/foodnews/reportcard.php

Pollan, “Industrial Corn Destroying Our Health & Environment”
http://www.organicconsumers.org/toxic/toomuchcorn071902.cfm

UC-Berkeley “Corn versus Ethanol” Study
http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2006/01/26_ethanol.shtml