

Discussion Qs

DQs #1 (T-1/29)

1. How does the rise of the credit card undermine sustainability?
2. Why is 'green plastic' up for debate?

DQs #1 (TH-1/31)

1. Why are MNCs' "sustainability" policies more aptly described as "efficiency" policies?
2. How are you most likely to have an impact on the sustainability of the planet?

DQs #2 (T-2/5)

1. How does the capitalist system promote Global South (GS) poverty through commodity exchanges?
2. How did the fair trade (FT) movement shift from one based on charity, instead to a focus of equality and promoting "trade not 'aid'" as equal exchange?

DQs #2 (TH-2/7)

1. The Doherty, at al., article examines the micro- and macro-economic perspectives and implications of mainstreaming fair trade (FT) products. How do the factors they discuss highlight the tensions between the radical FT movement and the mainstream approach to FT? (We'll discuss the details in class, but focus on the big picture when answering this question.)

DQs #3 (T-2/12)

1. **Cappuccino Trail** argues that Global North (GN) consumers have become "Foodies without Frontiers." How do the buying habits the video highlights affect the producers of coffee and other farm-produced commodities?

DQs #3 (TH 2/14)

1. How does the highly-concentrated coffee roasting industry give MNCs an advantage over producers even in a fair trade (FT) model? (Note: This issue is discussed in both the reading and the video.)
2. Why is it important to understand commodity fetishism as a product of the capitalist market to discuss fair trade (FT) issues?

DQs #4 (TH 2/21)

1. How do conventional, GMO methods of farming promote sustainability?
2. What are the main contributing factors to organics movement? (Remember, your answers should come from the readings, not just what you've heard in the news.)

3. Why might people caught up in the wave of the organics movement be wasting their money?

DQs #4 (T 2/26)

1. How would diets have to change for local food movements to succeed?
2. How is the local food movement similar in its objectives of the original fair trade movement?
3. How is a 'local' tomato not really local at all?
4. Why isn't local synonymous with sustainable?

DQs #5 (TH 2/28)

1. How is the livestock industry a threat to sustainability?
2. What needs to change to make the livestock industry more sustainable?

DQs #5 (T 3/5)

1. What factors interfere with promoting plant-based diets?
2. Why should we eat bugs? Why don't we?
3. How is food waste a sustainability issue?
4. What needs to change to address the issue of food waste?

DQs #6 (TH 3/21)

Identify what you think are the most important issues from the readings. Focus on considering the overarching main points collectively, rather than reading by reading.