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Cornerstone
Professor Gruenwald
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American Way of Eating Play

Before going to this play, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know how they were going to extrapolate events from the book to a script. It seemed very difficult to distill her experiences and investigation into a play. I felt that the cast did a very nice job portraying all the different scenarios that Tracie, the main character, described throughout the book.

One major difference between the book and the play was that the play only picked specific events that happened throughout the book. The play did not incorporate all of the stories that she had in the book, which is expected. For part one of the play and the book, it was based around a field in California. The play did explain at the beginning of all the different fruits and vegetables harvested in California but it only went into full detail of her story on Cutting and Gleaning Garlic. The play did not go into detail of the grapes and peaches stories that Tracie incorporated in the book. The play did include one of the most important topics throughout the fields, The Field of Panties. I felt that the cast really good job getting the point across of women being degraded in the Fields. When reading the book, I didn't feel the sorrow for Tracie as I did when watching the play. I felt the cast really emphasized how much you can truly suffer from working in the fields.

I also thought the cast did a very good job of emphasizing the tone of the book. The cast used very good attention grabbers throughout the play. At the beginning of the play, when they listed statistics they would slam the buckets on the ground to get the audience attention. They also used sarcasm as a way to get the point across about working at Wal-mart. Throughout all the training videos they showed extreme happiness and showed how "great" it was to work at Wal-mart. But in reality, it wasn't so "great" to work there. They also got the point across about Applebee's, when they were explaining that all they are really doing is cooking frozen meals and serving to the patrons. I thought it was also interesting when they explained all the different calories of meals offered at Applebee's, all being above 1,000 calories. When In the book, it explains in very good detail about all the different events but I feel the play made clear what it was like to work in either food industry. I felt the book and play were unique in different ways. I felt the book really got the point across in explaining everything in full detail and I felt the play got the point across by the tone used.

I also thought was was different was how the cast incorporated the statistics throughout the play. I thought that it was very interesting how they incorporated a game show called *Name that Grocery Store*. Every answer was Wal-mart and they made it funny and entertaining while still portraying all the different statistics that Wal-mart has to offer. I really liked how the cast incorporated humor throughout the play. I felt that in the book it was more serious with not a lot of humor throughout.

I thought the closing of the play really did a nice job of concluding what the whole point of what the book was about. The book describes how from her experience over all

different parts of the food industry, she has learned that we are all connected and implicated to each bite. I felt that at the end of the play they did a nice job of emphasizing this theory. The ribbon showing how everything is all connected, the theme of their stories are our stories, we need to open doors and eyes to new ideas. This book and play really made me think twice about the way we grow our food, how we sell it, and how we eat it.

Bonus:

What I thought was super interesting about the actors of the play was that they actually went to a field for four hours and did some of the same work that Tracie did throughout the book. The actors only had to do it for four hours but they said that the work that they were doing was very gruesome. It helped them somewhat relate to how the main character felt in the book when working in the fields for multiple weeks. They also said that their main point of the play was to have the audience feel the need to be aware and smart consumers in our world today.