



## V. Agriculture, Food Production, & Rural Land Use

D. Changes in food production and consumption present challenges and opportunities.

- Explain issues related to the changing nature of contemporary agriculture
  - Agricultural innovations (e.g., biotechnology, genetically modified organisms, organic farming, aquaculture) have resulted in ongoing debates over environmental, cultural, and health impacts.
  - Patterns of food production and consumption are influenced by food choice issues (e.g. organic farming, value-added specialty crops, fair trade, and local-food movements).

Students will write a paper comparing one food product that is available in two forms. The two forms will differ from each other on at least one important dimension (e.g., locally produced vs. globally produced, conventional vs. organic, conventional vs. GMF, wild caught seafood vs. aquaculture, free trade vs. fair trade, commercial agriculture vs. small farmer or subsistence farmer). Students should choose a simple item (e.g., apple, bananas, tomatoes, coffee, ) or food products where they focus on the main ingredient (e.g., grapes used in wine, cacao used in chocolate, olives used in olive oil). Students then trace the two versions of the food through the social and physical transformations undergone on the way to the consumer.

Students may use traditional research methods, but should consider, where appropriate, calling consumer information numbers to gain specific information. The focus of the paper is to explore the ways in which the two versions of the product differ, and to understand the origins, transformations, and environmental impacts that occur before the food reaches the consumer.

- A. Food identified for study \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Dimensions by which the food differs (for research) \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Ways in which the **two** dimensions differ
  - a. Original growing practices, labor force, inputs like fertilizer & pesticides
  - b. Economic costs of growing and processing the food product.
  - c. Social Transformation – Who provides the management and labor for growing and processing the food.
  - d. Physical features where food is grown - how and where is the food transformed or preserved for transportation and marketing?
  - e. Environmental impact from the growing and processing the food.