

Social 10 – Retailers Investigation

Your task is to choose one of the three above retailers and, using a variety of sources, including at least one documentary, answer the following question:

***To what extent does my retailer improve global society and what cost?***

Items that must be addressed:

* **By the numbers**: employees, customers, annual sales, revenue, amount contributed in taxes, etc
* **Employee conditions**: workplace safety, benefits, wages (compared to minimum and/or competitors), etc
* **Convenience**: technology/innovation, low prices, ease of access (ie. Shipping, how close a store is), etc
* **Global impact**: Human rights concerns (do they support war criminals? Are living wages paid to all in their supply chain? Etc) and environmental impact (impact on water, carbon emissions, use of renewable resources, fishing, etc).

**Examples of articles:**

‘I'm not a robot’: Amazon workers condemn unsafe, grueling conditions at warehouse – The Guardian

Costco, Whole Foods rise in Greenpeace rankings of grocery chains’ plastic use – Seattle Times

Walmart just boosted pay to $15. It's not what you think – CNN

Walmart just unveiled a new technology that could help defend its position as America’s largest grocer – CNBC

Amazon’s 1-day shipping is convenient — and terrible for the environment – Vox

Costco switching to sustainable seafood – Consumer Reports

**Examples of documentaries (see me if you have trouble accessing):**

Amazon, Jeff Bezos and collecting data by DW (German)

Amazon Empire: The Rise and Reign of Jeff Bezos (full film) | FRONTLINE

Amazon: The Truth Behind the Click (BBC)

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

Made in Bangladesh (CBC)

The Costco Craze: Inside the Warehouse Giant (CNBC)

Why You Spend So Much Money At Costco, Ikea & Trader Joe’s (CNBC)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Thematic Content (x2)** | | | |
| Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the thematic content.  Presents a logical interpretation of historical events grounded in evidence.  Incorporates both primary and secondary sources into analysis, establishing a strong argument | Demonstrates a strong understanding of the thematic content.  Presents a logical interpretation of events mostly grounded in evidence.  Incorporates both primary and secondary sources into analysis, establishing a reasonable argument | Demonstrates some understanding of the thematic content.  Presents an inconsistent interpretation of events weakly grounded in evidence.  Incorporates either primary and secondary sources into analysis, establishing a weak argument | Demonstrates little understanding of the thematic content.  Presents an inconsistent interpretation of events, not grounded in evidence.  Does not incorporate either primary or secondary sources. |
| **Communication & Conventions** | | | |
| Spelling, grammar and sentence structure all used effectively. *(If oral presentation, diction, word choice etc.*)  Effective stylistic choices may contribute to the creation of an engaging voice. Vocabulary is precise | Adequate use of spelling; grammar and/or sentence structure weak at times  Appropriate stylistic choices may contribute to the creation of a distinct voice. Vocabulary is specific | Adequate use of spelling; grammar and sentence structure weak at times  Basic stylistic choices may contribute to the creation of a voice that is adequate. Vocabulary is adequate. | Limited use of proper spelling, grammar and sentence structure  Ineffective and/or inappropriate and/or awkward  stylistic choices may contribute to the creation of an ineffective and/or unsuitable voice. Vocabulary is ineffective and frequently incorrect |