



The Fast Food Campaign

Abstract: In light of a time where the government favors the needs of corporate power over the needs of people, I intend to explore the ways in which the association between food companies and government agencies has strengthened over time and the implications on the American diet, health, and overall knowledge. The analysis of this topic is done under an ethical lense which finds that that food companies and the government violate the ethical ideologies of Loyalty to Community, Deontology, and the Minimax Theory when forming an unfair coalition, but abide by Fiduciary Duty by maximizing their profits through lobbying. I strive to highlight the corruption that takes place in the government and how that skews research and policy decisions in favor of the food industry, allowing Americans to consume processed food without repercussions and increasing obesity rates and other eating epidemics.

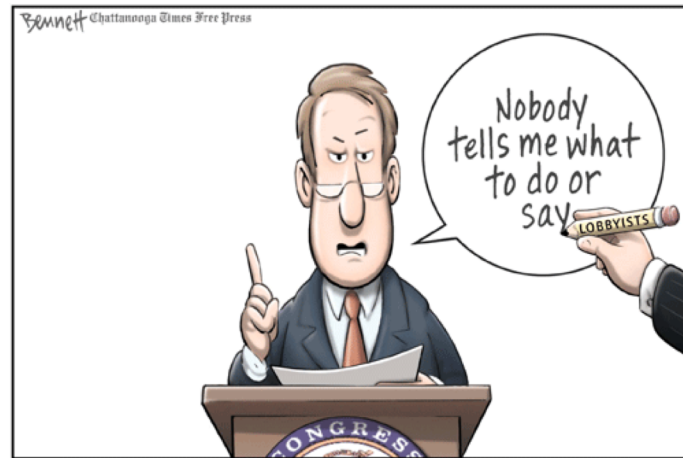


Introduction

Research Question: Should the food industry be allowed to lobby for something that is so directly tied to public health and how does lobbying affect what is available to the American public?

I choose this topic because as I learn more about the effects of food on health, I have become increasingly skeptical of the government and companies that control our intake.

Thesis Statement: I believe it is unethical for the food industry to be allowed to lobby for something as serious as the food the public intakes, and regulation and promotion of these products should only be available through fair and strict guidelines that money and corruption can not waver as to not worsen the obesity and related disorders in America.



Conceptual Framework: Loyalty to Community, Deontology, Minimax Theory, Fiduciary Duty



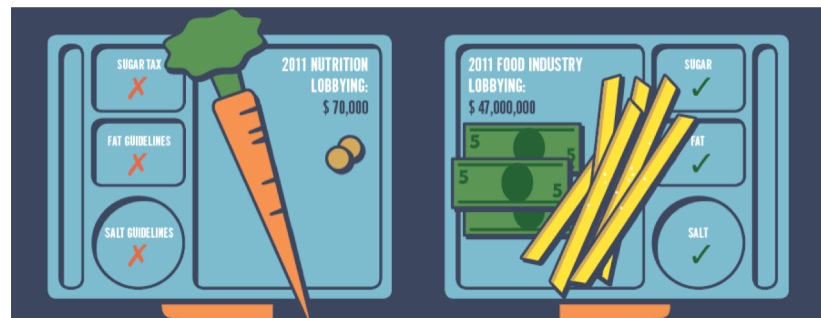
Research and Conclusions

Case Studies/Data:

- Corruption is apparent through revolving door politicians with ties in both the food industry and politics and soft money donations
- Companies form coalitions with research institutions to fiscally tamper with research and education
 - Coca-Cola and AAFP (American Academy of Family Physicians)
- Capitalism functions as an incentive to lobby and push personal agenda at the cost of public health.

Conclusions:

The food industry evidently participates in activities that violate the ethical theories of Loyalty to Community, Deontology, and Minimax Theory. Lobbying activities by top food corporations are need of stricter regulations and should not be able to influence the democratic process of our country. The American people are miseducated by their actions and increasingly vulnerable to the eating epidemics we see ravaging the country today.





Works Cited

- “Influencing Government: Food Lobbies and Lobbyists” *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health*, University of California Press, 2013.
- Kiple, Kenneth F, and Ornelas, Kriemhild Conee. “Food Lobbies and U.S. Dietary Guidance Policy.” *The Cambridge World History of Food*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 1628–43, doi:10.1017/CHOL9780521402156.052.
- “Lobbying Spending Database-Food Industry, 2019.” OpenSecrets.org, www.opensecrets.org/lobby/issue_spec.php?id=FOO&year=2019.
- Marks, Jonathan H, and Thompson, Donald B. “Shifting the Focus: Conflict of Interest and the Food Industry.” *The American Journal of Bioethics*, vol. 11, no. 1, Taylor & Francis Group, Jan. 2011, pp. 44–46, doi:10.1080/15265161.2011.534953.
- Sacks, G, et al. “The Broad Nature of Multinational Food Company Lobbying in the United States.” *Obesity Research & Clinical Practice*, vol. 6, Elsevier Ltd, Oct. 2012, pp. 90–90, doi:10.1016/j.orcp.2012.08.185.
- Sandel, Michael J. “Market Reasoning as Moral Reasoning: Why Economists Should Re-Engage with Political Philosophy.” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 27, no. 4, American Economic Association, Oct. 2013, pp. 121–40