**History of Food Access**

**Class activity for Chapter 9**

***Food, Farms and Community***

**Material Requirements: None**

**Time Requirement: 40 minutes over the course of two classes and an hour outside class.**

The need for change, its drivers, and the world of possibilities, can be hard to discern without a historical perspective. This activity requires students to learn through personal conversations about the experiences of earlier generations and perhaps other cultures with respect to the economy and politics of food access.

The instructor should delineate a couple of demographic groups representative of earlier generations, and perhaps a local immigrant population from a specific place. Divide the class into pairs and assign several pairs to each demographic.

Each pair should work to devise a set of questions and conversational prompts to encourage a discussion of food, meals and eating in another place or era. Conversations should address foods from all sources, whether pre-prepared or prepared in the home. The goal is to learn from each interview subject:

* What foods were part of their regular diet when they were young, and what were eaten on special occasions?
* Where did the food come from for their families?
* Who prepared it?
* Was there enough; if not, why not?

The instructor should decide how long to allow for students to arrange and engage in their interviews. Each pair should identify a unique interview subject in the assigned demographic and arrange a time to talk.

In class after the interviews, the pairs assigned to each demographic should aggregate their information and look for similarities and contrasts among their subject’s stories. Each group should prepare an outline of findings and choose a member of the group to present it to the class for discussion.