Food Co-op Documentary Study Guide

**Reflection questions for group screenings of Park Slope Food Coop**

* What was the sociopolitical context for founding the food coop? How has that context changed over time?
* Why do the coop’s owners choose to work?
* What does it mean to be an owner? How is that different from being an employee?
* How does the coop manage its labor?
* What are some of the challenges for coop owners working their shifts?
* Turnover of goods is very high because it is affordable, the food is very fresh, and the food is high quality. What practices make this possible?
* How is the food coop resisting the dominant culture in the US?
* There are many kinds of exclusion people are facing. What is the situation with food access in Brooklyn where the coop is based, especially in Black low-income neighborhoods? What about in the example the founder, Joe Holtz, gave comparing Park Slope to food coops that don’t have working member owners/
* What did you learn from the conflict/opinion difference between staff and the environmental committee’s proposal about plastic bags? What are some ideas you have for potential compromises that might allow the coop to decrease plastic bag use without penalizing low-income people or causing any food safety issues?
* What is the role of the Linewaiter’s Gazette, the coop’s internal newsletter?
* What is the role of the General Meeting in making decisions?
* How does the coop handle criminal activity?
* What stood out for you as the biggest differences in the way the Park Slope Food Coop is run compared to your grocer or food coop?
* Is there a similar coop structure in your community?
* What would be pros and cons to having a coop structured this in your community?