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Ethical Issues of Shopping at Walmart

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The Ethics of Shopping at Wal-Mart





**Do you shop at
Wal-Mart? Why?**

**Do you know
anybody else who
shops there?**

**Wal-Mart Tells Employees
It Will Cut 11,200 Jobs**

**Is Wal-Mart Right for
Your Shopping Cart?**

**Why the Wal-Mart Version of
Retail Is Unsustainable**

Is Wal-Mart Too Powerful?

- **Workers in 27 states are suing Wal-Mart for violating wage-and-hour laws**
(Olsson, 2003)
- **A class-action lawsuit was filed in 2001 by six female Wal-Mart employees, alleging that the company has denied promotions and equal pay to women**
(Goldberg, 2007; Olsson, 2003)
- **In 2005, 46% of the children of Wal-Mart's million-plus American employees were uninsured or on Medicaid** (Goldberg, 2007)

**Walmart Donates \$600K
To Help Haiti**

**Minneapolis Fed study:
Wal-Mart demonization off-**

**11 Ways that Walmart is
Changing Retail -- for Good**

- **Wal-Mart is a leader in charitable giving, ranked as the #1 corporate philanthropist in 2005, 2006, & 2007 (and possibly since).**
- **Wal-Mart has emerged as a leader in corporate sustainability.**
- **Wal-Mart's defenders point out that there is no shortage of applicants for open positions** (Mallaby, 2005; Galloway, 2006).

- **“Remember, the people criticizing Wal-Mart are not the ones who NEED to shop there” (Galloway, 2006).**
- **“Wal-Mart’s ‘everyday low prices’ make the biggest difference to the poor, since they spend a higher proportion of income on food and other basics” (Mallaby, 2005)**

INST 100 & Wal-Mart

- In October, two sections of INST 100, a pilot freshman course, took a field trip to the Wal-Mart in Cedarbrook Mall.
- Their subsequent homework assignments and formal papers grappled with undeniable facts on both sides of the issue – and largely settled in the gray areas.

NPR story discussing BOTH documentaries – AUDIO ONLY

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5011143>

CNN Interview with Galloway

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkzyMyDHcHU&feature=PlayList&p=E28C30C5E08F5C16&index=12>

High Cost clip:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkzyMyDHcHU&feature=PlayList&p=E28C30C5E08F5C16&index=12>