

Video Questions → *Escape from Affluenza*

Directions: Answer the questions regarding the film *Escape from Affluenza* listed below. Think about some of the material you read about in chapter 1, and see what connections you can make. Give the questions your careful consideration, and take the time to consider not only your role as an individual in terms of your own environmental impact and individual happiness, as well as, your role a member of American society, and your role as member of the world population.

1. What kind of experiences to you have with the “Keeping up with the Jones” concept? Does this idea affect you as an individual, and if so, how?
2. Do you as an individual or as a member of a family think that the “Keeping up with the Jones” mentality has negatively affected your life?
3. Our society has often been termed a “throw away” society. That is, goods are built to be so that they are no longer repairable, or demonstrate built in obsolescence. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
4. What are the three R’s, and how do they integrate with the frugality and simplicity lifestyle?
5. List any examples from the video or from your own life of the time vs. money paradox (lots of free time with little money, or lots of money but little time for the things that are important).
6. In what ways were the causes of the American revolutionary war parallel to the values of the frugality and simplicity movement?
7. Do you think a simpler, more eco-friendly lifestyle, is mutually exclusive with economic growth? Why?
8. List five ways you think you could easily “downsize” your own life to reduce your own environmental impact or reduce conspicuous consumption.
9. On average, many Americans live with a high degree of credit debt, yet consumption in modern society seems to be as high as ever. What kind of implications do you foresee in terms of ecological impact and economic health for the average American if we follow our current trend?
10. One example in the video portrayed a man who was living the “good life”, but who later lost his job, and whose income dropped almost 80%. Do you think you could survive on an 80% salary reduction with your current lifestyle? What are some of the major changes in you lifestyle you would make to survive on a lower income?