Slavery in modern business

- iPhone
- Centuries
- Slavery was in trade
- Now it’s more secret
- Used to increase production and lower cost
- Start in America then go around the world
- Economics of slavery
- Profits gained from slavery
- Compare slave owners to modern day businessmen

While some of society believes that slavery was abolished centuries ago, slavery still lingers on in some parts of the world. Slavery might have taken a different form, but it is still the slavery of olden days. The slavery of old was very conspicuous, it was hard labor, no pay, and a lack of freedom. The slavery of present day is hard labor, little pay, and a lack of freedom. Even though most of America detest slavery, most of us have products made using slavery. It might be a phone made in a country on the other side of the world by citizens working for a fraction of minimum wage. Or it could be a shirt made by someone who barely gets paid enough to eat. However, while the slaves in the past were forced into slavery, some of the slaves of now choose to this life because it does pay a little and some money is better than no money. While businesses know that this type of slavery is wrong, they set aside their morals because they know that the profit would be greater than if they used actual workers. Using these slave workers, businesses can create a larger quantity of their products at a much lower price.

http://www.ethicalcorp.com/supply-chains/modern-slavery-and-role-business

http://americanhistory.si.edu/american-enterprise-exhibition/merchant-era/business-slavery

http://corporate-responsibility.org/issues/modern-slavery-bill/

https://www.cips.org/Documents/About%20CIPS/Ethics/CIPS_ModernSlavery_Broch_WEB.pdf


- The meat packaging industry is the one of the most dangerous jobs in modern day. Immigrants from Mexico and South American countries are often where the workers are from. Because this job is so dangerous, the industry has a huge problem finding people to apply. The illegal immigrants work simply because it is money for them, and the fear of deportation is way lower than if they joined a union. These immigrants really have no choice than to work for this industry because they depend solely on their wages. It seems like a win win situation for both parties. The industry has employees and the workers have a well paying job. This is where the line is drawn. Because these workers are illegal, they do not dare complain about their conditions. But when it comes down to
it, they are everything but reasonable. The truth of the matter is, people have a very large demand for meat. And at the end of the day, it doesn’t matter how inhumane the treatment of the workers are, as long as the meat gets to the consumers. The government needs to regulate the way this industry functions. This is what modern day slavery looks like. Awareness of this needs to be more widespread if we are ever going to put an end to it.

http://hsus.cambridge.org/HSUSWeb/search/searchessaypath.do?id=Ba.ESS.02

- The employed are defined as those adults who, during the reference week, (1) did any work at all as paid employees, worked in their own business, in their profession, or on their own farm, or who worked fifteen hours or more as unpaid workers in a family-operated enterprise; plus (2) those who did not work but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, vacation, child care problems, labor dispute, parental leave, or other family or personal obligations – whether or not they were paid by their employers for the time off and whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

- The year 1870 is the first for which occupation statistics are available for the majority of the black population, as they were enslaved and their occupations not enumerated at the time of the earlier censuses. Not until 1940 did the census shift its questions regarding work behavior to reflect the labor force concept discussed previously


- Java forced labor (1700s)
- Dutch East India Company (VOC) colonized West Java and forced the peasants to cultivate coffee. By 1700s each family was forced to maintain 1000 coffee trees.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/carl-gibson/how-the-iphone_b_5800262.html

College Athletics:

- The NCAA makes money off of the efforts and talents of college athletes.

- College Athletes bring in revenue for their universities that is greater than or equal to professional athletes

- Ex: NCAA basketball teams= 4.2 billion dollars in revenue to the NCAA, while NBA teams only brought in 1 billion dollars to the NBA organization.

- The NCAA sales college players jerseys and posters, but the athletes are not allowed to receive any of the profits.

- “Coaches and administrators earn millions from excessive commercialization of a player's images, while a player is not allowed to earn a single penny from his or her image” (AJC)

- Scenario: College Team wins a national championship
  - Coaches get: a pay increase, job security, professional job offer
  - University/ Athletic Department: large increase in revenue, increase in applications to school, gifts from booster club members.
  - TV and Radio Stations: $
  - Stadium that hosted the event: $
  - Athlete= nothing

- A job: work/production = pay

- Slavery: work/production= no pay
There are restrictions on college players leaving a university, but there are no restrictions on coaches changing universities.

College sports receive professional attention
  - In 2014 29 million attended a college sporting event
  - Around 49% of Americans are followers of college athletics

Sources:

"Athletes should be paid like the rest of us: If what you do earns money, then you have the right to negotiate (without oppressive restrictions) for your share. When Tom Cruise makes a film, he gets paid quite well. He doesn’t get the money because he’s a nice guy, he gets paid because he is generating revenue for someone else. That’s how capitalism works."

1. Define
   a. Labor force
   b. Slavery
   c. Forced labor
2. Examples (past to present)
   a. Racist America
   b. More recent examples
   c. Very recent examples
3. Importance
   a. Why is forced labor important?
      i. Benefits
      ii. Costs
   b. How widespread
4. Ways to stop/prevent
   a. 
5. Conclusion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6lsVz2XKkc
I shared a weebly with you guys, I don’t know how to use it. Should we use a Storymap? I have no idea what I’m doing.

I tried doing a storymap and it wasn’t working with our topic. So I was thinking we do an iMovie with the below paragraphs coming through dramatically with dramatic pictures and music in the background.

Definition of forced labor:
The general definition of slavery is one person depriving another of their freedom. Those forced into slavery lose the freedom to control their own lives. As you can tell from the picture, slavery is still evident today.

Role of slavery in business:
In the business setting, this means depriving one from leaving a job, finding another job or the freedom to control their own body. This is rarely done in the fashion in which it was done in pre-civil war America, where citizens literally owned people believed to be inferior. In the present era, people can only own others in essence. This is done by be the only option for a job in a certain area and then barely paying the employees enough to live or forcing someone to work off a debt which is designed to never be payed off. Since, the business owners who inflict slavery on others view these people as theirs to do with whatever they want, these factories in which they work are usually incredibly dangerous. One form of this is a sweat factory, where the workers work 16+ hours a day in a factory that is as hot as a sauna. These workers go into work everyday because it is the only the job they are able to get and to earn the little salary the receive in order, for them and their family, to survive.

Effect of slavery in business:
One of the main goals of a business is to create the greatest profit they can. To increase their profit, they can either increase their sales or decrease their costs. While increasing their sales is difficult, decreasing their costs is easy if they know where to look. The easiest way for businesses to decrease, their costs, is to decrease the price of what they pay their employees. However, in the United States there is a minimum, so if a business intends to decrease the salary to dirt cheap, they have to look to other countries. For example, businesses can outsource to China, Libya, India, etc. In these countries, businesses can pay a fraction of what they would pay in countries like the United States. Since they can lower their cost by such a large amount, businesses can either keep the price as it is to make a large profit or they can lower their price to have a more competitive product. Whichever method they use, businesses are able to make more money to buy yachts, planes, cars, or whatever else they don’t need, than if they operated their business morally.

Examples of slavery in business:
Java Coffee: In the 1700s, the Dutch East India Company wanted to control as much international trade as the possibly could. This led them to the country of Java, which had fertile land which made it easy for coffee beans to grow. Coffee was in high demand in Europe during this time. However, like most businesses during this time, they did not care how they got their product, as long as they did not have to pay for it. The Dutch East India Company used entire families to harvest the coffee from the fields. These families were barely paid and the Dutch East India Company forced them to move to different coffee gardens each season. The way the Dutch East India company treated their employees was inhuman and unjust.

iPhones: In the last decade, Apple has become the dominant company in the technology industry. Although, Apple has used multiple immoral means to cut costs. This can be seen in one of their factories in China, called Foxconn. These employees, predominately teenagers, were sought out to work at this factory. Sometimes even work over twice the legal overtime limit and for minimal pay. The work conditions are so bad that in 2010, 14 employees committed suicide by jumping off the factory. Instead of changing the working conditions though, Apple simply added anti-suicide nets. The government needs to regulate and monitor these work conditions in businesses, such as Apple, to minimize these exploitations.

College Athletes: Every year, the NCAA makes around $4.2 billion off of college basketball alone. The players, who put in countless hours of work to make each game interesting and make it possible for the NCAA to make that much revenue, saw none of that. Instead, that money went to coaches, universities, tv and radio stations, and stadiums. The NCAA’s response to this is that the players are getting an education. However, that education is hampered by sheer number of hours for practice, games, and more. Instead of being labeled as slaves, NCAA athletes are called student-athletes, to emphasize that the players are earning something for their work. While the NCAA is selling their jerseys and keeping all of the money, the student-athletes are having anxiety attacks because of how busy they are or taking sub-par classes, even then, they are still not immune to being overworked. They are basically slaves in all but name.

What is being done about it:
Stop Slavery Award was launched to recognize companies that have taken steps in order to eradicate forced labor from their supply chains. It Promotes integrity in order to prevent the further use of forced labor. In addition government needs to step in and make regulations across the world that will prevent forced labor, now and in the future. We need to raise awareness to the issue. If people are in the dark justice will never be achieved.

Ending video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFyA1gJjllo
The coffee industry earns $60 billion annually, yet 45% of workers live on less than $3 a day.
Modern incidence of slavery

Data from the Walk Free Foundation (2013)

Annual profits of forced labour per region (US $ billion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Annual Profits (US $ billion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>51.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Economies and EU</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and South-Eastern Europe and CIS</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>