Handout Lesson 2

People, the Planet, and Economic Growth

Instructions: Watch the video, “People, the Planet, and Economic Growth” from the documentary, *This Changes Everything*. Then respond to the questions below.

1. What action did the government of India take in the area of Sompeta that upset local residents?

2. Summarize the concerns that the people of Sompeta have about the proposed coal-fired power plants.

3. What policies and incentives has the government of India put in place to stimulate private energy investments in coal-fired power plants? Who will benefit from these measures?
4. In the video, V.S. Krishna of the Human Rights Forum criticizes what he calls India’s “mindless pursuit of growth.” What are his concerns?

5. How does Naomi Klein (the narrator) describe the Western model of economic growth?

6. Does nature have limits in terms of how much economic growth it can support? Why or why not?