Rules of Capitalism

#1: Private Ownership of Means of Production

Capitalist Says: “It’s mine, and I can call the police to keep it.”

“All the profits rightfully come to me.”

Notes | Examples | Ideas

Means of Production = Natural Resources | Labor | Working Capital
There ARE no alternatives

“Since that resource belongs to all of us, we all benefit when there are profits.”

Examples of Collective Ownership

- Housing Trusts
- Worker Ownership
- Public Ownership
Capitalist Says: “I’ll pay you what you’re ‘worth’ and keep the rest”

Rules of Capitalism

#2: Wage Labor – Exploitation

Notes | Examples | Ideas

We could put some visual information down here, similar to rule #1, if we wanted to highlight different forms of wage labor.
There ARE no alternatives

“If I work for myself, I decide what I’m worth.”

Alternatives to wage labor

- Self-Employment
- Worker Coops
- Subsistence Lifestyle
Rules of Capitalism

#3: Commodity Production

Capitalist Says: “I produce things to sell, not to use myself.”

“I sell everything for more than it costs to make it.”

Notes | Examples | Ideas

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There ARE no alternatives

“I can make or trade for what I need so I don’t put money into the pockets of people who are already rich.”

Alternatives to commodity production = Community Gardens | Time Banks | Barter
Rules of Capitalism

#4: Competitive Markets

Capitalist Says: “I buy low or make things as cheaply as possible so I can make a profit.”

“I’m in a race to the bottom – my stuff has to be the cheapest!”

Notes | Examples | Ideas
There ARE no alternatives

“I pay attention to a triple bottom line. Outcomes for people and the planet are as important as profits.”

Notes | Examples | Ideas

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Alternatives to commodity production

CSA’s

Certified Corporation

Freecycling
Rules of Capitalism

#5: Profit Maximization

Capitalist Says: “It’s my right and responsibility to make as much money as I can.”
There ARE no alternatives

“It’s my responsibility to make sure that everyone has the means to live comfortably. We’re all in this together.”

Alternatives to profit maximization

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Invest Locally