1. Japanese citizens visit doctors three times as often as Americans and have longer life spans and lower infant mortality than Americans. How do the Japanese pay for their health care system?
   * Everybody’s covered, but they don’t pay for all of it through taxes. Everybody must sign up for a health insurance policy. You get it at work or through a community-based insurer. The government picks up the tab for those who are too poor. It’s a system known as social insurance.
2. In Germany, the rich pay for the poor, the ill are covered by the healthy, health insurance continues with or without employment, and doctors, who are private entrepreneurs, make less money than they did before reform.  Why will doctors in Germany accept less money?  Should the rich pay for the poor when it comes to health insurance?
   * Doctor’s have a couple incentives like lower malpractice insurance costs and don’t have to pay for medical school to keep them in Germany. The rich caring for the poor may be subjective, but you could argue there is a moral obligation to care for those who have less when you have excess. There is a social gradient in health in which the poor are less healthy than the rich. I think it helps demonstrate the cohesion a people have. In Canada, universal healthcare is a point of pride that unites them. Not everyone of course, but from who I’ve talked to, it is.
3. Taiwan designed its health care system in 1995, after looking at health care in 10-15 other countries.  What do you think works well in the Taiwanese system?  How is Taiwan struggling to balance the hopes of patients, the needs of doctors, and the cost of treatment?
   * They have the lowest administrative costs in the world at less than 2% with the help of smart cards that carry all patient information and bill directly to the government. The Taiwanese spend too little on healthcare to support all the services they offer. The government must borrow from banks to pay what there isn’t enough to pay the providers. The government is reluctant to increase insurance premiums as they believe voters will punish them.
4. After watching the film, do you believe that providing universal health care should be the policy of the United States? Why or why not?
   * Personally, I’ve had a negative experience with dental insurance. I needed a root canal which ended up costing me around $1500. Due to reaching my spending limit within a 6-month period I had to wait 3 more months before I could get the root canal covered under my insurance. The procedure couldn’t wait 3 months, so despite having healthcare I still paid full price. Personally speaking, I’m all for universal healthcare in the U.S.