**The Business of Being Born – Documentary**

Birth: it's a miracle. A rite of passage. A natural part of life. But more than anything, birth is a business. Compelled to find answers after a disappointing birth experience with her first child, actress Ricki Lake recruits filmmaker Abby Epstein to explore the maternity care system in America. Focusing on New York City, the film reveals that there is much to distrust behind hospital doors and follows several couples who decide to give birth on their own terms. There is an unexpected turn when director Epstein not only discovers she is pregnant, but finds the life of her child on the line. Should most births should be viewed as a natural life process, or should every delivery be treated as a potential medical emergency?

**Take notes on the following areas of the film:**

* What is midwifery?
* Why were midwives given a bad reputation?
* What is the controversy/issues surrounding medical/hospital births?
  + Business aspect
  + Drugs/Pain Killers
  + Labour process/Interventions
  + Caesarean sections
  + History
* What is the controversy/issues surrounding midwifery?
* What is a birthing center?

**After the film:**

* What are some of the misconceptions surrounding natural births and medical/hospital you came in with?