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| **Reading: Discussion**  A discussion introduces a controversial issue. The author presents their opinion on the issue and then provides points both for their opinion and against their opinion. The author then concludes by reiterating their point of view and why it is the correct position. |

**Superstores Takeover**

The massive, warehouse-like stores can be found in just about every suburb in North America. They are huge, cavernous buildings stacked from floor to ceiling with goods from across the world. Everything is offered at hugely discounted prices. Cost Co. Walmart. The Price Club. After a relentless march across the continent, discount superstores are here to stay. I, for one, am not happier because of it.

The list of points against superstores is long. To start with, they are really ugly. Being so huge, they take up vast amounts of land. Then there is the fact that it is impossible to find what you want within a reasonable amount of time. You have to wander for miles just to get to the section you want, if you ever get there at all. The word discount is also deceptive. You don’t actually save more money shopping at superstores. Sure, things are cheaper. But there are many more things at your finger tips for you to buy. My theory is you actually spend MORE money.

Then there is the impact that superstores have on the surrounding area. Superstores create tremendous amounts of traffic that the locals have to navigate. Of more importance, however, is the impact on smaller local stores run as family businesses. These local stores simply can’t offer the prices or the selection of merchandise that superstores offer. As soon as a superstore comes into an area, the local stores go out of business.

I am in a minority, however, in my belief that superstores do not contribute to the greater good. Community councils welcome the superstores for the increase in tax revenue that they bring. Politicians also point to the jobs that superstores provide. Of course, they forget to mention that most jobs in superstores are low-paying positions. Families, with many mouths to feed, and under increasing societal pressure to own all the latest consumer goods, welcome the huge discounts offered by the superstores.

Yes, superstores are here to stay. Being the rebel that I am, however, I am not going to feed their bottom line. I am sure the superstore chains don’t miss my business. In fact, I am sure they don’t even know who I am. Just as I am sure that the owners of the remaining local stores where I DO shop, most certainly do know who I am.

*A. Answer the following questions about the discussion above.*

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| What is the issue under discussion? |
| What is the author’s opinion? |
| What points support the author’s opinion? |
| What points oppose the author’s opinion? |