

10-8-19

Ja'Vaughn Gilliam

Second Essay—The Implications of Consumption—Fall 2019

Topic Options and General Considerations

Working with your third, fourth, or fifth blog post, write an essay in which you address the effects of consuming food or creating waste (as a result of consumption). Your essay must do more than present a personal observation of your topic; it must establish and prove objective claims and examples.

Topics related to food include the following examples: conventional vs. organic foods; monoculture vs. biodiversity; food labeling and packaging; nutrition, diet, and health; community-sponsored agriculture (CSA); sunshine- vs. fossil-based farming; fast food culture; cheap vs. quality food; real vs. processed food; the effects of cost and convenience on our shopping and dietary practices; genetically modified foods; ritualistic practices involving the preparation and eating of food; victory or home gardening; killing what you eat; "grown" vs. "found" food; and foraging education.

Topics related to waste include the following examples: reducing, reusing, recycling, and repurposing; composting vegetable and food scraps; and personal purchasing patterns.

One starting point is to conduct a thorough study of your practices and habits relating to shopping, preparing, and eating food. Study the contents of your refrigerator and pantry, and review the food journal you kept for your third blog entry. The next time you go to the grocery store, look carefully at the contents of your cart. Which aisles do you frequent? How much of your food is packaged or processed? What can you learn from the food labels? How much fresh produce, meat, and dairy do you buy?

Consider watching one or more of the following documentary films, some of which are available through Netflix or other online streaming services: *Super Size Me* (2004), *Our Daily Bread* (2005); *King Corn* (2007); *Food, Inc.* (2008); *The Botany of Desire* (2009); *Forks over Knives* (2011); and *Fed Up* (2014). Some of these titles can also be found on three-hour reserve in the library. The documentaries address some of the topics mentioned above and may give you additional ideas for your paper.

While you should provide background on your topic, keep in mind that this is not a research assignment, and you should focus on issues that affect you personally or publicly. Feel free to include common knowledge information in your essay, but paraphrase such details; you should not copy and paste information from any sources. Be mindful of the dangers of committing plagiarism, which, intentional or not, is a serious academic offense.

Your paper must develop a clearly established purpose, a major point you want your readers to draw from your work.

Purpose is what drives any meaningful piece of writing. Your paper must develop a clearly articulated purpose—a point or series of ideas you want your readers to draw from your essay. You should go beyond considering a general purpose for your essay, such as to inform or entertain the readers, and instead, devise one or more specific purposes for your essay: to

move them to do volunteer work or to write government officials.

Your essay should exhibit a tighter organization than your blog posts, and each body paragraph should be fully developed. Remember also to avoid writing a five-paragraph paper. Let subject and purpose dictate the structure of your essay.

Audience

The most important considerations for any piece of writing are subject, audience, and purpose. You should not think of your teacher as the sole reader of your essay. Consider your audience to be general consumers. It might help to envision your audience to include students in the class, who are open to your ideas and interested in what you have to say. Before writing a draft, you should take stock of how much a broad audience knows about your subject and what kind of background information you need to provide.

MLA Format for Handling Primary Sources

To illustrate claims in your paper, you will use a minimum of four quoted excerpts from one or more of the following essays in *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in the Natural World*: "Every Day We Choose," by Frances Moore Lappé (76-81); "To Endure Climate Chaos, Live Dangerously and Cultivate Hope," by Brian Tokar (247-52); "Letter from the Future," by Vicki Robin (41-48); "Become an Urban Homesteader," by Kelly Coyne and Erik Knutzen (102-05); and "Thinking Like an Island," by Michael Ableman (115-21). You may also reference clips from the documentary films that we watched in class: *King Corn* (2007); *Food, Inc.* (2008); and *Fed Up* (2014).

When you include passages from an essay, cite by the author's last name (the first time) and page number, as in the following example of a claim followed by an excerpt from "Every Day We Choose":

Author and world food expert France Moore Lappé reminds us that every human being possesses the power to make substantive changes: "... every choice we make sends out ripples [and t]he choice we have is not whether, but only how, we change the world" (81).

Select textual examples to prove a point; don't force details or incorporate them for the sake of doing so. For every detail you mention, explore its relevance, and explain *why* it is relevant to a *claim* in your paper.

Your paper must follow MLA format, including parenthetical references and a matching Works Cited entry for each essay from the book. The Works Cited page will appear by itself on the last page of your essay. The examples below follow the 8th edition of the MLA format. More detailed information appears in *The Norton Guide for the 8th Edition of MLA*, which can be found in the "Begin Here" Course Content folder in Blackboard. If you cite only one essay from the book, your entry will be similar to the one below:

Lappé, Frances Moore. "Every Day We Choose." *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in*

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Lappé, Frances Moore. "Every Day We Choose." *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in*

the Natural World, edited by Martin Keogh. North Atlantic Books, 2010. pp. 76-81.

If you cite two or more essays from the book, you must include one entry for the book and an abbreviated entry for each essay (each entry alphabetized by the author's last name):

Ableman, Michael. "Thinking Like an Island." Keogh, pp. 115-21.

Keogh, Martin, editor. *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in the Natural World*. North Atlantic Books, 2010.

Lappé, Frances Moore. "Every Day We Choose." Keogh, pp. 76-81.

If you cite articles or sites available on the web, refer to *The Norton Guide for the 8th Edition of MLA*.

Note that Works Cited entries are alphabetized by the authors' last names or—in the case of the films, websites, and articles by unknown authors—the first key words in the titles:

Fed Up. Directed by Stephanie Soechtig. Atlas Films, 2014.

Food, Inc. Directed by Robert Kenner. Magnolia, 2008.

King Corn. Directed by Aaron Woolf. Docurama Films, 2007.

You should list all Works Cited entries together; do not separate articles from web sources and films.

Additional Reminders for Drafting Your Essay

Keep in mind that **writing is a process** and that you will find the results more effective if you **allow for plenty of time for prewriting, organizing, drafting, revising, and editing your work**. The first three chapters of *The Little, Brown Handbook* and the *LB Brief* cover the early stages of the writing process. Before drafting your essay, you should consult a handbook and read carefully the following handouts: General Guidelines for Writing Essays and Grading Criteria for Major Writing Assignments.

Length

Your paper must be a minimum of 1,250 words long, excluding the Works Cited page. Use a standard 12-point font (such as Times New Roman or Cambria); you should not use a large font to mask the length of your work. The "General Guidelines" handout discusses format issues

such as spacing, margins, header, and heading. You should not include a cover page for your essay.

Grading Criteria

Your assignment will be graded on the following aspects:

- Clarity of purpose
- Unity
- Development
- Structure (paragraphing and overall organization)
- Correctness of form for documenting primary sources

Because this is a formal assignment, you must write in Standard English. Major sentence boundary errors distract the readers from your paper's content. After you submit a major writing assignment to Blackboard, your work will be graded "inline" with embedded instructor's comments and scored with a detailed rubric.

Writing Center Requirement and Due Dates

For this essay or your research paper, you must complete a Writing Center tutorial session. You must send me a complete draft of your essay (1,250 words or longer) ahead of your session; send your work as an attachment to a Course Message in Blackboard Learn. I will provide a form that a tutor will fill out and sign when you visit the Writing Center. After your appointment you will receive a daily grade (up to 100 points), which will be averaged with blog grades and other daily assignments. Be sure to make an appointment ahead of time. While walk-in appointments are accepted, you may have to wait to work with someone. The Writing Center is located in the library (on the first floor of the ATC), and the phone number is (281) 425-6534. ***If you choose to visit the Writing Center for this essay, the deadline for completing a tutorial session is Monday, November 4th.***

You must turn in your final draft by 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 5th. Refer to the first day handout for the late work policy for this class. You will submit your work through Blackboard as an attachment (in *Microsoft Word* or if you use a word processing application other than *Word* as a PDF file).

Blackboard Assignment and SafeAssign Requirements

When you submit your essay through the appropriate Assignment link in Blackboard, SafeAssign will compare your work to other academic papers (including those from Internet sources and global and local databases (which include papers submitted by other Lee College students). Shortly thereafter, you and your instructor will receive an originality report that

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shows the percentage your paper matches other sources. Typically, a paper will be deemed acceptable if it receives a score below thirty percent (which means seventy percent of the text is original and there is little likelihood of plagiarism). A paper receiving a score of thirty to forty percent includes extensive quoted or paraphrased passages or is plagiarized. A score above forty percent indicates a high probability that lengthy passages or the entire paper is plagiarized. Any score above fifteen percent must be reconciled (through insertion of adequate documentation or removal of plagiarized passages) before it can be turned in for a grade.

SafeAssign is designed to prevent plagiarism and to alert you to the need to document primary and secondary source material (citing authors by name, placing quotation marks around passages written by others, and including Works Cited entries that follow MLA format). For all essays you must quote and cite primary and secondary sources.

After you submit your essay to Blackboard, it will be graded "inline" with embedded instructor's comments and scored with a detailed rubric.

Technical Support and Student Help Desk

If you encounter problems with SafeAssign, contact Paula Lee. Her email address is plee@lee.edu, and her office telephone number is (281) 425-6285.

If you encounter problems logging onto campus computers or accessing Blackboard from home, contact the Student Help Desk by phone, (281) 425-6952, or by email, helpdesk@lee.edu. The hours are as follows: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Your user ID (which you will need for both logins) consists of the first two letters of your first name, the first two letters of your last name (in all caps), and your entire student ID number (all seven numbers). Your default LC password consists of the first four letters of your last name (capitalized) and the year of your birth (four digits).