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21W.730-4 Writing on Contemporary Issues: Food for Thought:
Writing and Reading about the Cultures of Food
Fall 2008

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Homework #5

*Due online and in class T 9/23***Essay 1**

Write a short (**3-4 pages**) essay that grows out of a memory related to food.

Your goals:

- To write an essay in which you discover and make meaning for yourself, and which you make as meaningful and interesting for readers as you can.
- To write muscular, energetic sentences.

Options: In your essay food may be the main focus of your essay: Why you hate vegetables; how to make the perfect milkshake; why you like shopping at Trader Joe's; unsuspected pitfalls of making Thanksgiving dinner; perfecting a recipe for chocolate-chocolate chip cookies... Or, food may be a vehicle that leads readers to consider some larger idea—family, ritual, etiquette, appetite, discipline, hunger, guilt, greed . . .

Further options:

- You may make reference to any of the texts we've read so far, as well as any other text that comes to mind; you may also include references to plays, movies, songs, comments by your best friend, your grandmother, the school lunch lady... In other words, you may enrich your essay by including other voices.
- This essay should be informal (conversational, familiar) in approach. The tone is up for grabs; it may be serious or humorous, nostalgic, ironic, puzzled, persuasive, or....

Requirements:

- Your essay must develop an idea—not just be a series of memories, scenes, reflections and/or allusions to texts.
- It must be 3-4 pages double-spaced (750-1000 words).
- It must follow the format given below.

Hints:

- The best essays do not tie up their ideas into too neat a package—i.e., they don't look or sound like "5-paragraph" essays. Rather, they build in the writer's own sense of exploration and discovery—they invite readers along on a journey.
- References to texts (if any) should be informal—name the writer or source in your sentence; do not use parenthetical references. For example, "As Leon Kass has remarked, ..." or "Just like Toni Morrison, ..."

(See next page for Format)

Format for Essays

All drafts must be word-processed or typed. Please follow the format given below for all the essays you produce for this class.

We will not use cover sheets. At the top left of the first page of your essay:

Serena Student
Food for Thought
Essay 1/Draft 1*
September 20, 2007*

** Change the Essay no., and Draft no. and date for each new draft!*

The Title of Your Essay Goes Here

Epigraphs [optional] go here
--authors of epigraphs go here

Text begins here.....

Titles are not underlined, in quotes, or in italics; use boldface and initial capitals, as shown.

Number your pages, by hand if necessary. Note: It is customary NOT to number the first page.

Margins 1" top and bottom; 1¼" left and right.

Double space essays.

Font Use type that is easy to read—no script, italics, all caps, etc.—and a size similar to this (Times New Roman 12-point) .

Paragraphs Please indent paragraphs. Do not leave extra space between paragraphs unless you intend it to signify a transition.

A Note on Citation

We will use informal citation for Essays 1 and 2. That means that you work sources' names into your text (not in parentheses!) and do not cite pages; this is the style used in book reviews and magazine articles. For example: "As Joan Didion remarks,"; "According to Eric Schlosser, journalist and author of *Fast Food Nation*,"

We will use MLA style for Essay 3, our research essay.