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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 #19**

*Due on Class Web site W 11/12 5:00  
Paper copy due to me and Group members in class Th 9/25*

**Essay 3** (10 pages/2500 words)

Essay 3 is an essay organized around an Inquiry: writers ask a food-related question, research it, and formulate a thesis. Then they write up their investigation in a way that interests readers in the question and the results of the inquiry process.

**Your goals:**

- To frame an Inquiry Question that you find truly interesting, and that is a good size and shape. For example, don't ask a "What is question"—a question that requires only a definition for an answer. Ask a question whose answer requires judgment, analysis, interpretation. (Examples handed out in class.)
- To find credible, timely, relevant source material.
- To deploy evidence accurately and effectively as you build your argument.
- To demonstrate your own thinking.
- To write muscular, energetic sentences and to link them in paragraphs that unfold in a graceful, dynamic way.
- To make your essay as interesting as possible to readers—especially readers outside our class.

**Requirements:**

Your essay must:

- Develop an argument, i.e., an idea, that is your own—not just be a whole lot of information.
- Make clear and accurate use of source material, and cite all source material, whether the material is quoted, paraphrased or summarized.
- Follow the format I gave you with the Essay 1 assignment.
- Follow MLA format for in-text citation and a Works Cited page.
- Be 10 pages double-spaced (2500 words).

**Options:**

- Your essay must take its ideas seriously, but the tone and approach are still yours to choose: exploratory or persuasive; straightforward, or playful and humorous.
- Your audience is, most generally, high-school and college educated readers. But if you like, you may target a more particular audience—doctors; parents; school food programs; teenagers with eating disorders...