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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 #16

*Due in class Th 10/30***1) PREPARE FOR DEBATE**

Meet with your team and prepare your strategy for Thursday's debate on the thesis of *In Defense of Food*. You will also have 20 minutes at the beginning of class to huddle and do your final prep.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Make sure you know who's responsible for covering which portions of the material.
- Remember that each debater can refer to a notecard; plan to have no more than a few cards—otherwise you'll waste time searching for quotes and facts.
- Knowing your material is fundamental to successful debating, but it's only the beginning. Perhaps the most challenging thing about debating is to respond in real time to the points made and challenges issued by your opponents—so plan for that.
- Also: while you must respond to opponents, the people you are trying to convince aren't your opponents, but the judges. So don't let yourself get caught up in ad hominem arguments—arguments that go after an individual.
- Remember that conceding points is part of successful debating—simplistic, dogmatic arguments aren't likely to be successful with educated audiences.

2) REVISE ESSAY 2*Due Fri. 10/31 4:00 my office, or by agreement with me*

Aim to make your essay an interesting discussion of some of Michael Pollan's points—a discussion that is framed and driven by your own idea (thesis). Don't let your main idea simply be one of Pollan's—instead, help us to understand P. by putting him in a new framework, a new perspective—your own. Think about who you want to read your essay—what is your ideal audience? What effect do you want to have on them?

NOTE: If you haven't already done so, you must add at least one other reading to your discussion.

Include a cover sheet with responses to the following questions, plus your 1st draft, when you hand in your revision:

Name _____

Essay 2 Draft 2

What has changed in this draft? Please be specific?

What's the main idea in your essay? Why does it matter?

Whom do you imagine as your ideal audience for this essay?

What do you like about this essay?