

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

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

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

## Homework #8

*Due in class Th 10/2*

## READ:

- “The Pleasures of Eating” by Wendell Berry. Wendell Berry is an essayist, poet, public speaker and Kentucky farmer. Here are a couple of quotes that should give you an idea of his standing:

“. . . perhaps the great moral essayist of our day."--*New York Review of Books*

"Berry is the prophetic American voice of our day."-- *Christian Science Monitor*

Berry, and this essay in particular, have been very influential among food writers such as Michael Pollan and Eric Schlosser.

- “Why the Fries Taste Good,” an excerpt from Eric Schlosser’s book, *Fast Food Nation*.  
[both readings are posted on our eReserves]

## WRITE:

- a 150-200-word summary (précis) of Berry’s essay. Your précis should include Berry’s key points and his purpose in writing the essay. If possible, it should indicate the flavor of the essay—the tone, style, and/or way he argues. It should NOT include any commentary or critique by you.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION: What’s the context for Berry’s essay? What are his strongest arguments? What points do you want to question or argue with? Why? Re: “Fries”: What do you make of the information Schlosser provides? How does it affect what you think of the pleasure of eating fast foods?

NOTE: If you have not already turned in your revised Essay 1, it is also due at our next class meeting.