

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 #9*****Due in class T 10/7***

READ the first third of Michael Pollan's *In Defense of Food*. Make sure to read the Introduction and to scan the Table of Contents before you begin. As you read each section of this book, notice especially:

- The contexts for Pollan's discussion
- The way he handles language
- The way he handles the science of nutrition

As you read, also keep in mind the purpose he states at the outset: "My aim in this book: to help us reclaim our health and happiness as eaters (7)."

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION: What do you gather about the way this book is going to be structured and the way it is going to proceed, based on the Introduction & the Table of Contents? In part I of the book, what are the key points of Pollan's argument? What do you think of his argument and evidence?

We will begin class with a short Quiz on this reading.