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21W.777 The Science Essay

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Homework #15

Due T 4/7

READ our final set of essays:

- Michael Pollan, “Our Decrepit Food Factories,” *NY Times Magazine* link: <http://www.michaelpollan.com/article.php?id=91> and “Farmer in Chief,” *NY Times Magazine* link: <http://www.michaelpollan.com/article.php?id=97>
- Elizabeth Kolbert, “Watermark.” *The New Yorker* 27 Feb. 2006: http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2006/02/27/060227fa_fact_kolbert

Michael Pollan’s two essays are on related topics, but each takes a different rhetorical approach—so think about that when you read them. Whom does he target, and how does he make his arguments convincing? Pollan is the author of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* and *In Defense of Food*.

Elizabeth Kolbert writes on politics and on global warming. Her article has to do with the tough choices involved in reclaiming delta land from inevitable flooding. Notice especially the kinds of evidence she presents, and the way she approaches the tough questions: does she make them clear? What does she want her readers to think or do?

Note: Print these essays out and read them actively—I expect to see well-marked copies of the essays in front of each of you when we discuss them in class.

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