

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (**grade 11**)

REQUIRED TEXT: *The Omnivore's Dilemma*

AUTHOR: Michael Pollan

GENRE: Nonfiction (Exposé)

SUMMARY:

In *The Omnivore's Dilemma* Michael Pollan explores the quandary of every omnivore: inundated by choices, what should we eat? Ruminating on this question, Michael Pollan attempts to investigate the serpentine path that food actually takes from its origin to its ultimate destination on his dining-room table. Breaking his work into three sections (Industrial, Pastoral, and Personal), Pollan first studies and consumes industrialized beef. Next, he writes about spending a week on a self-sustaining, organic beef and poultry farm in rural Virginia. Finally, Pollan recounts how he learned to hunt and forage for his own meal in a California forest. In *The Omnivore's Dilemma* Pollan compellingly challenges all omnivorous readers to start contemplating what they eat as their food ultimately shapes and defines them.

REQUIRED STUDENT RESPONSE (DUE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS):

1. Students will complete an in-class timed write on this piece during the first two weeks of class for a major writing grade. Thus, students may want to annotate and highlight the work for Pollan's compelling use of any of the following tools: rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos) example, syntax, diction, and figurative language.

2. Complete the following activities for the first day of school:

A. Read Pollan's Introduction, "Our National Eating Disorder."

B. Then based on the following directions, read **one** of the three major sections of the book: Industrial, Pastoral, or Personal.

If your student ID number ends in either a 1, 2 or 3, then read "Industrial".

If your student ID number ends in either a 4, 5, or 6, then read "Pastoral".

If your student ID number ends in either a 7, 8, 9 or 0, then read "Personal".

C. Finally, restricting your remarks to one page of 12-point font, address **one** of the following writing prompts:

1. Many would contend that Pollan's exposé boasts relevance to every young American's existence due to its universal topic. Do you agree? If so, how do the points Pollan makes in the Industrial, the Pastoral, or the Personal section of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* matter in your own life? If not, why does Pollan's work fail to resonate in your own life? Please refer to quotations from your specific section of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* to substantiate your claims. Use proper MLA parenthetical citation format.

2. Select a short passage from your section of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* that showcases the strengths of Pollan's writing style or rhetoric. Then explain how Pollan effectively uses rhetorical appeals or stylistic devices to sway the reader in this particular passage. Be specific. Use proper MLA parenthetical citation format.

3. Please create a turnitin.com account if you do not already have one, and register with your AP Class. Class IDs and passwords can be found on your teacher's OnCourse website. Submit your summer reading responses to turnitin.com by the first day of class.