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ENGL 1301
Professor Smart
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Group Project: Interview Project for Jayson Lusk

Consensus Question: You stated in your book:

“Organic and local foods get the headlines. Farm subsidies, soda taxes, GMO labels, and bans on fast-food advertising are political lightning rods that are sure to get your friends riled up. These things captivate our attention because they give us a way to feel like we’re ‘doing something’ by paying a premium or fighting in a political battle. But good intentions don’t always produce good outcomes.”

It seems like everyone favors organic food over processed food. Without any knowledge from this book, we would too. However, processed food means modified goods. This allows nutrients to be put inside of food which ensures our survival.

So why do people fight this advancement so much? If GMOs help the billions of people in the world survive, why does it get people so agitated?

Erwin Paivash

Passage- “As a species we long ago the natural ability of the planet to support is with food. Even using the best organic farming practices available, even cutting back our diets to a minimal, vegetarian level, only about four billion of us could live on what the earth and traditional farming supply. Yet we now number more than six billion, a growing, and around the world, we are eating more calories on average than people did

Reflection- What was most surprising in this passage was the vast gap between our planet's food production compared to our rapid food consumption. Hager sheds light on the painless accessibility of fertilization in today's time in contrast to 300 years ago were plowing virgin lands a problematic task, took extensive time. Hager's analyzation challenged the idea of all unnatural food production our planet intakes. Imagine in the future your food is created in a lab rather than grown out of a garden.

RESPONSE- I think it is very interesting the advancements we’ve made to be able to allow this much food to be grown. If we just farmed like we used to back in the day, then many people would be susceptible to starvation. The point you mentioned about food being grown in a lab as opposed to a garden is very amusing to me, and I don’t think we are actually too far off from that.

Passage-“Virtually all the insulin now taken by diabetics is produced by genetically altered bacteria in a lab. Before that, it had to be extracted from the pancreases of cows and pigs—a process that was both expensive and lacking in quality control.

Reflection-This passage is a prime example of how GMOs are the backbone of our food and technology improvements. With further development in our agricultural system more efficient ways of producing food balances will accrue. Not only will these developments keep us alive for future generations but will also set new standards for our nourishment.

RESPONSE- This is a really interesting passage you’ve chosen, and I agree that GMOs are the backbone of our agricultural and technology advancements today. Without them, we wouldn’t be able to feed the billions of people that are on this Earth. They are also very useful in other ways, like the insulin example. This leads me to the question, why are people so afraid of GMOs if they’ve proven to be so helpful?

Passage-” The lancet estimates that 3.1 million children younger than five die every year from malnutrition”(73). Americans today can’t count themselves lucky because food companies incorporate essential vitamins in processed foods.

Reflection- People in the United States live a mostly lavish and free lifestyle but don't even know it. Other third world countries are suffering from vitamin deficiency and a food intake source. Many of these countries produce goods such as rice or beans but lack other intakes of nutritious foods such as oranges or other vegetables. Before we can advance with GMOs problems like these need to be solved to help our food imbalances around the globe

RESPONSE- This is a really sad statistic and I think something has to be done about it. In America, our foods are modified so that we are able to get the proper nutrients we need in order to survive. However, not all countries are as blessed as we are. Lusk brings up the idea of modifying staple crops in developing countries and I think that is a great idea. I know this process has already begun, so how successful has it been and is there anything we can improve on?

Alexia Barwick

In chapter 11 you stated “We face some serious challenges ahead. It will take more than what we did in the past, and that’s what this book has been about. I’ve given just a small glimpse of the exciting development of food and agriculture...The point is the process. Experimentation and innovation are what will ultimately address our food problems. If we’ll let them.”

REFLECTION- Although a lot of our food problems have been eased due to innovation, there is much more to be done. However, the fright of advancement has hindered the process. People are afraid to move forward and practice with experimentation. If we don’t let fear rule us, we could solve some serious food problems that affect many people in the world. The question that comes to mind though is, what is the first step to getting people to not be so scared?

RESPONSE: Lusk presents use with many obstacles that face our planet and species regarding food imbalances. However, these threats are not immediate to the extinction of our species they only display great concerns in our history of sustainability. Growing enough food to feed our planet is becoming increasingly impossible which started the creation of GMOs in our food agriculture system. With these further food enhancements hopefully, globally our population can evolve around GMOs.

In your book *Unnaturally Delicious* on page 73 you mentioned, “ Alas, many millions of people around the world are not so fortunate. An article in the British medical journal *The Lancet* estimates that 3.1 million children younger than five die every year from malnutrition, and 165 million children suffer from stunted growth. Almost half of all childhood deaths in the world result from inadequate nutrition. Even when people have enough calories to consume, available diets in many parts of the world lack essential vitamins and minerals.”

REFLECTION- People all around the world are suffering from malnutrition. They may be eating enough, but the food they consume does not contain enough vitamins. This can cause extreme symptoms like stunted growth and death. It is very sad that many parts of the world don’t have access to the nutritious food they need to survive. I want to know, how can we expose these people to the vitamin and minerals they need?

RESPONSE: This is an interesting passage to about. Today we see many countries suffering from malnourishment because of food and vitamin deficiency and many countries that are sustainable at the moment. This isn’t a problem that has just arisen rather than a problem we see throughout history. These problems are surrounded by fear which gathers people's attention on the topic. For our food imbalances to decrease we must globally incorporate GMOs in our diets.

On pages 192 and 193 of your book you stated, "The 2014 special edition of National Geographic argued that 'agriculture is among the greatest contributors to global warming', and the 'environmental challenges posed by agriculture are huge, and they'll only become more pressing as we try to meet the growing need for food worldwide.'"

REFLECTION- The pressure to feed the world is creating a trade-off. In order to grow food for the population, we are sacrificing the environment. Is the innovation and experimentation with food making thus a more pressing issue? Is there anything we can do to stop it?

RESPONSE: This passage shows how fear can grasp our attention to something so prominent. Today, currently, we have far surpassed the ability to grow enough food for our population so that begs the question of how are we being fed? Humanity faces many challenges but the fear of having food deficiency is a growing concern globally. With the help of GMOs, our food balance can flourish but many speculate that GMOs can be hurtful to our society because of unnaturalness.