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## Title

Not everyone's morals are as clear as night and day. Morality has become more difficult to understand as technology and humanity have advanced and evolved. While eating for survival with no care about the consequences was the way of life, humans have learned more about what we eat, bringing about the inevitable question of is the torture of animals worth the pleasure we get from them? David Foster Wallace brings about this idea in his piece, "Consider the Lobster" where he discusses the morality of boiling lobsters alive, and whether or not lobsters can feel it or have emotions. This idea can be generalized to animals as a whole and whether or not we should be killing them for our pleasure. However, while this may seem like a personal internal conflict it goes back to the culture and habits of the human race.

How humans interact with other species is an ever changing relationship. In the article "Animals Like Us" by Hal Herzog, Herzog describes the relationships Americans have with snakes versus cats, and how we are more considerate of some species over others. "The troubled middle" is introduced in Herzog's piece where individuals will do things to an extent to animals, however there is no universal standard, these decisions must be made internally. INSERT ANOTHER STORY. My views on food and animals have changed completely from the beginning of the semester up until now, where I can now love with a limit.

In David Foster Wallace's piece "Consider the Lobster" Foster makes the argument for animal rights and the idea of conscious animals are presented. Lobsters have a relatively simple nervous system compared to other animals, but that does not mean they can not feel pain or the emotions associated with it. Lobsters do not have a cerebral cortex, which in humans is responsible for the "experience of pain" which is the emotions of suffering or distress(Wallace 504). Lobster however do have a brain stem and thalamus which is involved with pain reception. Since we can not simply ask the lobster to rate its pain as it enters the boiling water there are 2 criteria it must meet to determine the capacity of suffering. The first is does the animal physically have the body parts to experience pain, including but not limited to nociceptors, prostaglandins, and neutral opioid receptors. Then does the animal demonstrate behaviors humans associate with pain.

**(put towards end)**Most individuals breeze through life in what has been called the "troubled middle". I myself am guilty of this. I am passionate about animals, yet I still eat them on a somewhat daily basis. Something I have been asking myself more recently is how have I been getting by knowing what my actions have caused. The troubled middle is the only way to get by and make it through the day. The thought of not thinking about what you are doing is an often habit of mine, and I need to stop myself from thinking about where my food comes in order to give my body nutrients while still having a flavorful diet.