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English 110

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Julia Childs believed that we should enjoy food and have fun. And by this she meant we should cook it ourselves! I think the basic end point of “Out of the Kitchen and Onto the Couch” is to answer the question “is it possible to go back to a time when this was true or are we too much the workaholics and too much persuaded by reality cooking shows, fast food, TV advertisers, and social media to do so?”

Commented [JM1]: Make sure to end the quotation here and add a citation. But I find this is a really interesting start to the paper and really gets the reader thinking.

My fellow classmates food essays show a recurring theme that home cooked food is something they relish and have a fondness for because it is not only more delicious, but it brings together the social aspect of gathering with family and friends. I think my classmates would like to hark back to earlier generations and to Julia Child’s day if they knew “how”.

Commented [JM2]: This brings out a little confusion. Maybe word it a little differently. The overall message of the paragraph is good but there might be a way to grasp a better understanding.

I picked Nick Triggs’ favorite baked lobster meal as it evoked in me a similar wonderful experience of not only New England food, but also because I love my family taking our boat on weekends to an island beach to meet up with fellow boater friends year after year - each bringing a food such is homemade potato salad or homemade baked beans. He has some great passages, but one particularly well stated is “The best part about doing a lobster bake is being with the family one last time for the summer ... It’s the perfect combination of taste, satisfaction, and family all melds together in order to make this meal my favorite.”

Commented [JM3]: I love that you brought in a personal aspect to the piece. I might suggest adding in some more background here about what Nick includes within his writing.

Commented [JM4]: Ensure to add in a citation

The second food essay was Bryan McGrath’s Thanksgiving Day Dinner which is my favorite holiday gathering as well. Bryan’s a great storyteller and his memories through the years

Commented [JM5]: Maybe find another way to introduce the next essay to strengthen your main idea here.

of his childhood, and right before he entered college, are important memories to him, especially his grandmother's famous honey baked ham. I appreciated the experience he shared with his brother "My brother and I have always been on the same page about a lot of things growing up and this is definitely one of them. For us the ham symbolizes, in general, the good times with the collective family and with each other, taking on the beast together." And he ends his last paragraph with "The smell of the perfectly cooked ham, ... the comradery of the family ...".

Like myself, this classmate sees his favorite meal is an important time for his family to come together to catch up with each other's happenings during the past year.

The third food essay was Kayla Robinson's Lasagna that she enjoys during one of the most special times of the year - Christmas. Kayla likes spending time with family. It's the one dish her mother is comfortable preparing because everyone raves about it, but truthful she doesn't like making it because she is afraid it might not taste up to standard. I related with Kayla because of all those fun memories. It was great when she talked about her trip out to Rangeley, Maine snowmobiling with family and close friends and then going back and sitting down eat again for the homemade lasagna dinner and how the men were out in the garage working on the sleds, while others were busy doing other stuff and the women were inside drinking wine.

I see my classmates food essays, including mine, all referring to their favorite food or meal as something the look forward to as time with family. Under section 6, "The Cooking Animal", starting 19, Pollan references various notable people from Boswell who called HomoSapiens "the cooking animal" to The French gastronome Brillant-Savarin who claimed that "... cooking made us who we are by teaching men to use fire, it had done the most to advance the cause of civilization." Also this is supported by other anthropologists who have stated "...that cooking is the key to humanity." Richard Wrangham in his book "Catching Fire" argued

Commented [JM6]: Maybe elaborate more on the quotes with your own support.

Commented [JM7]: This might be a good part to bring in a comparison to Pollan's essay. Pollan includes a point about how cooking shouldn't be a scary thing.

Commented [JM8]: Maybe elaborate more on why this is important.

Commented [JM9]: Maybe add in a new transition into here, from your classmates essays to Pollan's ideas and others ideas within Pollan's article.

that cooking by our early ancestors is what made us humans. He further believed that “Cooking gave us not just the meal, but also the occasion: the practice of eating together at an appointed time and place.” I certainly am not an anthropologist or a famous gastronome, but I can relate to their arguments and I strongly believe we are humans because food is not only a necessity but a key to who we are. Our food essays support this assumption because it is just the favorite meal that is appealing to us, but also the social setting of being together to eat it.

Commented [JM10]: Good support included here.

Commented [JM11]: Dear Tanner,

Overall, this paper has such a strong start and so much potential. I think that you could definitely elaborate your points more as well as support the quote you used with more of a personal idea. Be sure to include citations throughout the essay when adding in all of the quotations. I also believe you could craft a stronger thesis that emphasizes all of the points you want to bring into the writing. I also like all of the peer papers you chose but you may want to look into including a little more background when bringing in their writing. I think that the paper is off to a great start and hope I can see the rest of the paper.

Thanks, Julia