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ENG-110

DUE DATE

Title

The opinion that cooking has on a person is something that has always been changing over time. For some people cooking can be an event that strikes joy and will have a special place in their hearts. While for others it can be a task that is very daunting and undesirable. Like many other things in history the way we look at cooking has changed over the years. In the article “Out of the Kitchen, Onto the Couch” by Michael Pollan, he discusses the way that people are using more processed foods and cooking less than we used to by telling us about his experiences with Julia Childs and the Food Network. Pollan seems to think that this decline in cooking or cooking shows and increase in processed food or competitive cooking shows is a bad thing for our food culture. However, after reading a few articles from the work of my peer’s, I noticed that this may not be true. In the articles from my peer’s they all seemed to have the same main idea, no matter the food the reason that they enjoy it so much is because of what it means to them, not just how it was made.

In Pollan’s article he discusses the joy that is given to him from watching Julia Child’s cooking show, The French Chef. Even though he was forced to watch the show when he was growing up he states that the show increased the quality of life around his house. His mom was quickly making the dishes that Julia was making during the show. Now with the change that cooking TV shows have undergone they are not focused on teaching mothers how to cook. They

**Commented [JM1]:** I really enjoy these few intro sentences, it gets the reader thinking.

**Commented [JM2]:** You may not need this, it is a little repetitive. You could probably just say their articles because you already mentioned peers

**Commented [JM3]:** Maybe here you could include how he enjoyed the food that was cooked, show some emphasis on how quality of life was increased.

have become all about competing against other chefs and a counting down clock. This change in TV has caused a decline in the amount of time cooking and cleaning. On average we now spend “less than half the time that we spent cooking and cleaning up when Julia arrived on our television screens”. This decline in cooking and increase in watching cooking does not mean that people are enjoying food less than before instead they are just enjoying it in a different way.

**Commented [JM4]:** You could maybe elaborate this more, meaning demonstrate how the decline was caused. Was it only due to the shows?

**Commented [JM5]:** Make sure to include a citation here

In Rob Clark’s favorite meal essay he talks about how lasagna became his favorite meal to eat. For Rob lasagna is about more than just how it tastes, it is about how the connection that he was able to make with his family through it. He would ask his mom to make lasagna so much that it eventually was able to become an ongoing joke between him and his mother every time she makes it (Clark). This joke would come up once Rob and his mom start to make the lasagna and because of this joke a deep bond was able to form between him and his mom. Lasagna is a dish that involves actual cooking in order to get the desired food and it is able to produce the type of enjoyment that is founded in all types of foods. With lasagna that deep bond was able to form and it will be a bond that is there for life. Despite our changing culture that Pollan was hesitant about, cooking is still a vital role in many houses today.

**Commented [JM6]:** Favorite meal essay, he talks

**Commented [JM7]:** For Rob,

**Commented [JM8]:** Love this piece of evidence maybe bring in a quote to help the reader picture the scenery in their mind.

**Commented [JM9]:** Good conclusion sentence, maybe include a transition here about the meaning of your last paragraph before leading into the next.

Pollan makes a point that today people are having other people do the cooking. With things like pizza delivery we are able to rely on others to make food for us and bring it directly to the door. In Sydney Wolf’s favorite meal essay she describes that her favorite meal is not one that someone in her family slaves over for hours, but instead pizza and wings from a local pizzeria. Being from Buffalo, pizza and wings are a keystone in her local culture. Sydney states that “she misses Buffalo food a lot when she is away” (Wolf). This is a statement to how important food is to people and their culture and that they don’t need to cook the food

**Commented [JM10]:** I love this connection from Pollan’s essay to Sydneys, maybe include more of why this is meaningful to the importance of food.

**Commented [JM11]:** You could elaborate more on what is stated at the beginning of the paragraph in connection to what is stated here.

themselves in order to get that same connection that Rob and his mother may have when it comes to lasagna.

**Commented [JM12]:** Dear Nick,

Overall, I think that you have an excellent beginning to your essay. I think that all of your ideas flow really nicely. There are spots within the writing that I think you could elaborate more on and use to make connections to your overall large ideas to the paper. I really thought that by including your use of comparisons between Pollan's essay and your peers strengthened your arguments and was an important piece to your paper thus far. You had some minor grammatical errors throughout, just watch comma usage. I also think at some points you could use some stronger word choice. I am interested to see how the rest of the paper comes out and overall, I hope you elaborate just a little bit more.

From, Julia