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English essay 2

From generations to generations food has always been the backbone to us as a civilization and has always played a major role in the daily lives of the population especially recently in the lives of Americans. The growth and transition of the importance of food has changed drastically throughout the years and we as people have changed along with it. In Michael Pollan's article, *Out of the Kitchen, Onto the Couch*, he dives into the development of food and the affect and change it has had through his own observations on society as a whole as well as himself and his family. Along with Pollan, various favorite meal essays I examined also reveal this sense of importance revolving around food and how it has affected and impacted their own lives in a positive light. Although there has been much change in the way we perceive food and the way in which it has altered throughout time, the overall effect of food on individuals remains the same. It is a consensus of memorable moments that no matter how much the food industry changes or is expressed over time that these inner feelings toward food will never be altered.

Pollan reveals the idea that cooking has made us as individuals who we have become today. In certain cases he is right. When looking back on your finest memories whether it be as a kid, young adult, or fully grown, these memories tend to surround some form of food that brought you and whoever made those memories together. That one Thanksgiving dinner where grandma drops the ham and everyone around the table can not stop laughing. The time dad took you and a few friends out to eat after that big baseball game win. Even that time when you lose that baseball game as a kid and dad takes you out for ice cream comforting you after the distraught loss. Food surrounds almost each and every one of our best memories throughout our lives and what are we as people of we are not created through the memorie and great times that we have had. In this way, Pollan is right in saying that food has created us. Although it does help create the people that we stand before others, it is not what defines us. Food is the underlying effect that creates us but it is those memories and experiences with friends and family that define us as people with the catalyst of food. In my favorite meal essay I look back on the Thanksgiving dinners that created my fondest moments as a child that without the idea or conception of Thanksgiving, family sitting around a table ready for a spectacular cooked meal once a year, would have never come to fruition. In my favorite meal essay i explain this, "This dish resembles a sense of comfort for myself and for my family as we do not gather very often throughout the year and the idea of the honey baked ham is the idea of a sense of a gathered and loving family that is not present regularly throughout my life", it is the food that brings us together and opens us for memorable opportunities. Pollan talks about the impact of Julia Child on himself and his family that lead to memorable traditions of testing dishes on himself and his sisters, "Some of the more ambitious dishes, like the duck or mousse, were pointed toward weekend company, but my mother would usually test these out on me and my sisters earlier in the week, and a few of the others...which I especially , loved". In this quotation Pollan expresses his fine memories of being the guinea pigs to his mother's cooking that is sketched into his mind and without the culture food would not be possible. Food does not create us but it is essential in the process of defining us as people.

Commented [MC1]: Take out 's'

Commented [MC2]: Quotations around title

Commented [MC3]: I like your thesis, but is there any way to clean up the wording. I understand what it is saying, but not all of the wording makes sense. For example, "consensus of memorable moments" doesn't make sense to me. Like you could cut "memorable moments" out and it would make more sense

Commented [MC4]: This is a good place to incorporate quotes from others meal essays. You can directly quote their emotions while eating their favorite meals and some of them might be attached to a specific memory

Commented [MC5]: Quote Pollan? Also your topic sentence says the opposite of this. Are you using food and cooking interchangeably? To me cooking and food are 2 different things, but if they are not to you, you need to explain that. Also next sentence confusing

Commented [MC6]: I love this idea!!! I think you should make this the topic sentence for this paragraph. Your topic sentence is about cooking itself, while this paragraph you discuss the emotions and memories associated with cooking and eating.

Commented [MC7]: I don't know if you can use your own meal essay for this project, but I would try to include 2 other sources from our class too incase you can't

Commented [MC8]: What is the connection between your meal essay and Pollan? Need to include a transition sentence between the two ideas to make it more cohesive. Also, you have many ideas in this one paragraph, would you want to split them up to be able to discuss them in more depth

From the beginning food has always been a mixture of sport and necessity dating all the way back to the hunting and gathering days. Through generations the tides have shifted and the sense of food being a sport has weighted more than the necessity of it to survive. Especially recently in America, the shift to sport has been openly obvious. This is due to the many Food Network shifts in shows, from the Julia Child programs to "Chopped", food has been more of an amusement as time goes on. Pollan describes this in his article easily shown by the time and goals in which the meals are prepared from Julia Child to "The Next Food Network Star".

Commented [MC9]: Put comma after

Commented [MC10]: Can you describe these shows? Some readers might not be familiar with who Julia Child is or how her show is different than what is on tv today

Commented [MC11]: Closing letter
Hi Bryan,
I like how you have a lot of different ideas for the limited word count we had. One of the more important things I think you need work on is rereading what you wrote and making sure it makes sense with what you want to say. The way some things are phrased makes it more difficult to understand, so I would go through to make sure you are being clear. Going off of that, your second paragraph is a combination of different ideas. You start with talking about cooking, and then it switches to emotions and memories when eating, to food and your personal experience. This ties in with rereading because you might want to break these ideas up so you can go into more depth on each of them. Additionally, maybe it is just me, but I view cooking and food differently, but you seem to use them as if they are the same thing. You need to either explain how they are connected or are the same, or pick one of them to talk about for that paragraph and go with that. I like how you included your own fav meal essay, but you need to include 2 other classmates and 1 from on our class.
PS make sure you cite stuff