

Project 2

Agree w/ Pollen about how cooking made us who we are

Civilization and culture change from early on to now

Increase in fast food/non home cook meals

Intro

The human race is constantly changing and becoming more advanced, so it is no surprise that what we eat has advanced with us. From when man created fire, to the invention of the microwave, to today, where we can be given a meal in our car in under 3 minutes, man has changed what is known as cooking, making it quick and easy. In the article, “Out of the Kitchen, Onto the Couch” by Michael Pollan, Pollen discusses the shifts in cooking and cooking shows from the time of the neanderthals, to Julia Child, and then today where it is a competition. Pollen takes a stance by saying cooking has made us who we are and it shows where we will go. After careful review of Pollen’s opinions and my peer’s favorite meals I have come to the conclusion, that what Pollen claims is correct. Cooking has changed overtime, making humans more advanced, however where cooking is going is not giving us more culture, but instead stripping away what we have known, slowly dehumanizing those who will come after us.

Creation of fire to Julia Child and strong cooking presence to today

The creation of fire differentiated us humans from our animal ancestors. An anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss views cooking as, “a metaphor for the human transformation of nature into culture”, meaning cooking has made us the society we are today(Pollan 17). Cooking food over a fire created “meals” in a sense because meals are basically a time where individuals eat together. Eating together lead to the the exchange of knowledge and advances in

science and technology. Tools were made, written language came about, and according to anthropologist Richard Wrangham, “around that fire, we became tamer.”(Pollan 17). Our animalistic behaviors faded and we became more of an intellectual. However, what made us the intelligent, social species we are today is also stripping us of that.

The discovery of fire expanded our minds and our palettes for a period, more recently though cooking has been in a decline, taking away the culture formed by our cavemen ancestors.

Class Source 1

My classmate, Sydney Wolf supports this idea in her essay, “TITLE” where she discusses her favorite meal of pizza and buffalo wings, which “come in two boxes”(Wolf 1). While Wolf states early on that this is a meal she eats when her family does not feel like cooking, she goes on to describe it as an event meal. Wolf states, “ As my mother mentioned pizza and wings are a treat for our family. Pizza and wings are a meal we frequently ate for family events such as dinner parties or holidays”(Wolf 6). Compared to the time of Julia Child where family events and parties were a time to display your cooking ability and the time and effort put into making a delicious dish, Wolf makes the point to not cook on special occasions and instead provide food for guests in, “a cardboard box, 15 in x 15 in x 2 in...[and] the second a small, square styrofoam take out container”(Wolf 1). Wolf’s contrast to Julia Child demonstrates where society will be going in terms of cooking. Cooking will be almost entirely replaced with fast food restaurants and ordering out, instead of utilizing the kitchen in your own home.

Class Source 2

In Galen's Arnold's piece titled, "TITLE" he describes his relationship with cooking and meals, which goes to further support the rarity cooking for future civilizations. Arnold describes how he moved a lot for hockey purposes, and while staying with the Harries family, "the practice of eating home cooked meals together as what appeared to be a true family. This was something my family rarely actually does. Only on special occasions like holidays and birthdays will you find myself, my parents, and my older brother eating together at the same table"(Arnold 3). While some families still keep the tradition of eating a home cooked meal together, like the cavemen did, Arnold was not use to this type of lifestyle. Special events were the few times where he could eat a meal with his immediate family, and this itself says a lot about where our culture is going. Family values have changed since Julia Child was popular, and Arnold is a prime example. Working and being able to sustain yourself financially have become more important than being with those who love and care for you. Arnold later states how he did not have a favorite food and food did not make him feel more at home. "The food itself was not what reminded me of home and made the Harries' feel like an extension of my own, but rather it was the effort they made to make that feeling possible.", food and meals have a different connotation and meaning to the younger generations(Arnold 5). There is less sentimental value and importance to being together as a family today than it was a hundred years ago.

Third source(out of class)

Where future is going/opinion

Conclusion