

Questions for
Omnivore's Dilemma

By

Michael Pollan

Questions before class

The Omnivore's Dilemma is not primarily about animal welfare or animal rights. But the topic is covered in the book from, in the author's view, an objective approach. Of the books we have read, *The Jungle* has probably more readers than any other. *Omnivore's Dilemma* would probably be second. It has fueled the slow food movement.

1. What is/are Michael Pollan's job(s)?
2. Which society issues does Pollan bring up in his book?
3. Are there texts that are anthropomorphic? Be specific.
4. Briefly describe the 4 meals he writes about including their origins.
5. Which meal do you think would be best and for what reasons?
6. What is Michael Pollan's beef with John Mackey? (you will have to search the internet)

Questions for in class

1. We have all heard of fast food. What is the "slow food" movement?
2. Is Pollan a vegetarian? Does he accept the views of Peter Singer?
3. Pollan writes about Singer that our choice is between: "a lifetime of suffering for a non-human animal and the gastronomic preferences of a human being." What do you think of this choice? Pollan suggests two alternatives: look away or stop eating animals. Which do you favor, or is there another choice?
4. The following products are available in the grocery stores; what is the animal welfare situation with each – is it better, worse, or not different? (describe what each means)
 - a. Cage free vs. conventional eggs
 - b. Natural vs. conventional ground beef
 - c. Organic beef vs. natural beef
 - d. No antibiotics ever vs. conventional pork
 - e. Humanely raised vs. conventional
 - f. Free range beef or pork vs. conventional feedlot or confinement beef or pork
 - g. Locally-produced vs. conventional
 - h. Sustainable meat vs. conventional
 - i. Organic vs. all-vegetarian-fed beef vs. conventional