**Reading Questions, first three essays**

You don’t have to write out answers to these questions, but they are intended to help you read critically, which will give you more to say about them during our in-class discussion next week.

“Homesick Restaurant”

1. **Thesis?** This reads more like a personal reminiscence than an “argument,” which is usually thought of as something intended to defend an arguable thesis. However, the writer is subtly presenting a point of view along with the story. What does the writer seem to be saying about these immigrants, both those who arrived in London legally and those who snuck in?
2. **Pathos?** How do you think the writer wants the **audience** (readers of the NY Times Sunday magazine) feel about this immigrant community in London? What details are given that might connect to the audience’s emotions, beliefs, values? (Note that it was printed around the holidays, just after our Thanksgiving.)
3. **Descriptive details?** The best stories paint a clear and compelling picture in the readers’ minds, which can help them connect emotionally to the people in the story. What details in this story help bring up specific sights, tastes, smells, sounds, etc? What is the effect?
4. **Comments?** If you were to comment, say, on the comments board under the essay, what might you say about it to the writer and the other readers?

“It Ain’t Easy Being Green: Memoirs of a Veggie Cowgirl”

1. **Thesis?** Again, this is written more as a memoir/story/reminiscence than as a conventional “argument” that makes an arguable claim, such as “It’s wrong to eat meat,” and then gives reasons to support the claim, but it is clearly moving in that direction. Where do you think the writer makes a statement that could be considered the thesis (main idea, arguable claim)? Why do you think she puts it there?
2. **Ethos?** This essay depends heavily on the ethos appeal—the writer’s careful presentation of her own personality, values, beliefs, and experiences as they relate to her topic. What kind of persona is she building? What values is she highlighting? What personality traits? Considering her college student **audience,** whydo you think she is emphasizing these values and traits?
3. **Descriptive details?** Like many (most) essays about food, this one has some very detailed descriptions that appeal to both the senses and the emotions. Pick out some specific descriptive details (again, sights, tastes, textures, smells, etc.) that she uses effectively. What effect do you think she wanted to have on the audience? How does that effect support her **purpose**?
4. **Comments?** If you were to comment, say, on the comments board under the essay, what might you say about it to the writer and the other readers?

“Why You Can't Sit Down to Eat Without Making a Statement”

1. **Thesis?** This reads like a regular newspaper article, which is supposed to be objective, stating just the facts, not taking a side. If you read more closely, though, there is a subtle argument being made. What is the writer’s point? What does he want the reader to do? [Hint: The title looks like a thesis but isn’t, nor are the restatements of it. Look at the last 3 sentences to see the moral issue the writer wants readers to care about, then put it in your own words.]
2. **Logos?** This seems to be written for an **audience** that already knows some basics about how food systems works, such as what a government farm subsidy is and how it affects the market. However, the writer is also providing data that probably isn’t known to the audience. Find some of that data and decide whether there is enough information to sway the audience’s judgment on the case. If not, what other information do you think should be added?
3. **Pathos?** We don’t get much in the way of detailed description here, but there are appeals to the audience’s values. Find some of these appeals and discuss how they strike you. Do they connect with things you know and care about, or not?
4. **Comments?** If you were to comment, say, on the comments board under the essay, what might you say about it to the writer and the other readers?