

Writing Challenge 6.0: Food for Words

engl 281 / sec. D / autumn quarter 2009-10 / chang

A website for writers describes food writing as “a mix of perspectives that include biography, memoir, history, reporting, and richly narrative cookbooks. Regardless of the way information is shared, all food writing focuses on the importance, preparation, consumption, or meaning of food” (NoveList). It is a specific flavor of expository writing all about the senses, the experience, and the importance of cooking, eating, and dining. Your writing challenge for this week is deliciously simple: find something to eat, eat it, and write about it. Sounds too easy to be true, right? Indeed, writing about food—communicating taste, smell, texture, technique, and ambience—requires attention to detail, skill with proper nouns and adjectives, and a profound understanding of and respect for food and foodways. This week’s paper is not a restaurant review; rather it is a food review. Imagine your paper as a section of a larger piece about a favorite cook, cuisine, or eatery. Pick a single dish, a single item to share with your readers. Your food review must provide a brief context (where do you get this food?), preparation (how is it made?), description (how do you eat it, what does it look like, what does it taste like, what does it smell like, how does it make you feel?), and evaluation (why is it important, does it have a history, is it new or different, why recommend it?). Draw on the week’s readings for models; you might benefit from a little light research. Remember that the best food writing does more than simply describe. It connects. It excites. It persuades. It makes the reader want to eat the page.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Format: 3-4 pages, typed, no title page, double-spaced, proper heading
Due: Tuesday, November 10, at the start of class

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