Joe Skimmons

2.8.17

Sec 303

Exercise 1.5

I will never eat lobster again. Reading the article “Consider the Lobster” was a very uncomfortable read, and it ignited questions over the consumption of animals, especially lobster, that will be sure to haunt me for a long time. The fact that this was printed in a gourmet cooking magazine makes it even more interesting: Why would they choose to print it? The audience clearly consists of readers interested in cooking, and who must eat lobster themselves, so their reaction must have been similar to mine: discomfort and disgust. Wallace’s tone is interesting in that he stays formal and impartial the entire time. He claims multiple times that he did not wish to sway the readers’ diets, but simply wanted to categorize the atmosphere at the Maine Lobster Festival in 2003. Although Wallace attempts to remain impartial, however, it is implicit that he is shocked at the treatment of the lobster. His analytical, dry opening quickly degrades into a horrific account of slaughter, and this serves to advance his intellectual project consisting of questions that haunted him during his time at MLF.