# Literature Question

## *What does Michael Pollan’s tracings of where our food comes from and Barbara Kingsolver’s method of eating locally* reveal about the American diet and culture?

# Possible Thesis

## Michael Pollan’s quest to find the origin of produce found in his local supermarket and Barbara Kingsolver’s advice to consume local and in season food reveals the agricultural industry in its entirety: which plays a key role when deciding what to eat.

## In order to decide what to eat we must first not only determine the origin of our food, but the time of year, and cultural history, all play key factors in a fragile decision that could have devastating impacts on the once natural, but now monopolized food chain.

## Whats insight can be gained from examining Kingsolver FIRST, and then Pollans?

### By examining Kingsolver’s concept of a Locavore suggests that microeconomic aspect of agriculture. With the individual choices we see....

### How can we use to to examine pollan’s macroeconomical approach?

### The image of agriculture. (farms)

#### Kingsolver describes the image of pastures in reality.

#### Pollan explains how the meat industry packages markets it items in the supermarket. Depiciting pastures.

### Pollan is interested in his dislike for corn’s in our agriculture economy.

### Kingsolver is concerned other than the environmental deficits.

# Possible Flow of Essay

## Kingsolver’s description of a Locavore.

### Why is ignorance bliss for future generations?

### The luxury of easily accessible, year round food.

### With such insignificant knowledge of when a potato grows.

#### Suggests the existence of ignorance.

#### Explains how we are to only blame our selves for this ignorance.

#### When Kingsolver’s blame, or notion that it is our own fault, suggests that Pollan could gain insight into why it is the consumers faults. This is not the case, as suggested by Pollan’s geographic’s. This observation, could possibly mean that currently people in KY have more accessible access to local farmers.

### Uses Vegetannual to inform reader of the multi-seasonal tendency of food.

### Kingsolver describes the environmental damage associated with the distant travel of food in her local supermarket.

#### Pollan’s discovery of the distance in which food travels between corporations and consumers.

### While Kingsolver isn’t directly interested in the exact source of her distant food in her grocery store. Why is this?

#### Simply because she buys locally.

### Her only concern on the issue of the harm doings that large scale industrial agriculture has on the environment?

### Her concern of the origin of her food is only associated with env. Damage.

### Her concern of mankinds consumption of distant large scale produced food is unmentioned.

### Just because we can, why should we? (eat raspberries)

### How do you understand the agricultural economy?

### With a global economy.’

## Lure the reader into story by encapsulating the question of “where does my food come from?” into the readers thought.

## Pose that Michael Pollan had a similar question, and how he went about ACTUALLY attempting to find the origin of the food from his local supermarket, and along the way he discovers a whacky and humorous context. Possibly foreshadow ‘corn sex’

## Talk about Farm bill maybe?

## Corn. Corn. And more corn. Corn is everywhere.

## The case against corn.

### Why is he writing about corn

### What does he hope to learn about corn?

## First evidence should concern the production costs of corn versus retail value.

### What would Kingsolver think of this?

## How not only is it in our food directly, also indirectly (i.e. cows, chickens)

## The manure from cows being fed corn, instead of grass.

## This affects our meat, resulting in x deaths each year from salmonella.

## There are (1000?) cows in the average hamburger. Chance for disease increases exponentially.

## The impact big Industrial farming companies (Tyson, etc.) have on farmers.

## Genetically Modified Organisms

## Seasons from Kingsolver and the relation with GMOs (i.e. certain genes can make organisms grow in seasons otherwise not meant to be)

## Both Kingsolver and Pollan’s perspective on natural selection and how the Pilgrims learned basic genetics from the Indians to grow corn.

## Cultural significance of our food.

## Avoiding rotten meat demonstrates a learned instinct, while carving pumpkins is a cultural instinct developed through history of OTHERS. Compare with lab rat in Pollan’s *The Omnivore’s Dilemma.*

## Better tasting food is the goal

## Buy local, in season food that pertains to your cultural heritage. If you know where your food was grown, odds are it will taste better, and result in overall happiness, relationships, and health (a lady loves a man who can cook, and vice versa).

## The more papers on this subject the better.