Reader Responses for *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*

**General Instructions:**

1. Use MLA format for the header, title, and citations. If you don’t remember the rules of MLA, look them up. Google “Purdue Owl MLA” for assistance.
2. Each response will have a specified length in word count. Pay attention to those.
3. You must use at least one direct quote as well as paraphrase other quotes (with citations) from throughout the assigned reading. A paraphrase should keep the ideas of the original but use different vocabulary and sentence structure to convey those ideas.
4. Be sure to answer the questions posed for each response.

**Response 1: Reader Response for “Our National Eating Disorder” (pages 1-11)**

1. What is “the omnivore’s dilemma” according to Pollan? As part of this, explain why he views this as a problem for the modern eater? This should include both quotes and paraphrasing.
2. Write a discussion question for use in class. You should include your own response to the question with citations. Obviously, your question cannot have a simple yes/no answer. Your question should make other students look in the text for the answer and formulate an intelligent response.
3. This reader response should be 250-300 words.

**Response 2: Reader Response for “Industrial Corn” (pages 15-119)**

1. Write one sentence (in your own words) that conveys the overall purpose of the section. Make it a good sentence. Use complex sentence structure and your best vocabulary.
2. Now, support that sentence by discussing (with citations) three sub-points Pollan makes in his discussion of corn. These sub-points should be from throughout the reading and should be one substantial paragraph each in your writing.
3. Finally, write two discussion questions from different chapters of this section using the instructions from Response 1.
4. This reader response should be 400-500 words.

***The Omnivore’s Dilemma***

**Response 3: Reader Response “All Flesh Is Grass” and “Big Organic” (pages 124-184)**

1. In your own words, write a sentence conveying the overall main idea of “All Flesh Is Grass.”

2. In your own words, write a sentence conveying the overall main idea of “Big Organic.”

3. What is the most striking image, the most memorable and compelling picture in “All Flesh Is

Grass”? Discuss this image, exploring what ideas it expresses and finding ways it relates to,

evokes, or emphasizes the other material in the chapter. Remember to use page citations for all

references to the text.

4. What is the most striking image, the most memorable and compelling picture in “Big

Organic”? Discuss this image, exploring what ideas it expresses and finding ways it relates to, evokes, or emphasizes the other material in the chapter. Remember to use page citations for all

references to the text.

5. What do you notice about Pollan’s writing style? For example, if he’s descriptive, in what

way? Does he use a lot of adjectives? Does he use a wide variety of verbs? Are his sentences

long or short or mixed lengths? What kind of tone does he seem to have? How are the individual

essays organized? Give examples of things you notice about Pollan’s writing style.