Course: Bio Animal Science Grade level 10- 12

Type: Argumentative Structure: Argumentation/ Analysis

Teaching: Should consumers purchase beef products that have been altered from their natural state? After reading provided texts, write an argumentative paper that addresses the question and support your position with evidence from the text. Be sure to acknowledge competing views.

Performance level: 2

Student 2

“We’re eating garbage, people. Literally — garbage that has been “cleaned” with ammonia and sold to us mixed with ground beef, shrink wrapped for convenience at our local Mega-Mart.” (Colleen Vanderlinden Planet Green) Until we started this module, I had no idea what was in beef products. Now that I am aware, I do not want to eat hamburger. Have you ever thought about the saying “Ignorance is bliss”? In some cases this is true, but I strongly believe that in this case, nothing can be further from the truth. All consumers should have knowledge of what they are purchasing and consuming. Should consumers purchase beef products which contain extra ingredients? Some of these ingredients can cause illness and in some cases death. Do you want to be buying some meat that you have no idea what it contains? If you buy organic beef you know the ingredients, and you know what you are consuming. Organic meat is the best choice because there are no medications allowed, no growth hormones allowed, and no additives contributed to the processing. Some may say natural beef is the best form, but in my opinion, organic is superior. The culmination of this paper will prove that there truly is only one 100 percent beef product.

I believe consumers should purchase organic meat because medications are not allowed in organic cattle. Antibiotics are medications that help fight off bacteria. Bacteria are microorganisms with no chlorophyll. “There is an increasing amount of evidence suggesting that sub-therapeutic antibiotics in food animals can pose a health risk to humans. (Antibiotic Debate Overview) Sub-therapeutic antibiotics are antibiotics given at low concentrates. Once you give an animal some medications you have altered that animal. Along with antibiotics, medicated feed additives are also not permitted in organic cattle. This solves another problem in the beef industry the chance of mixing different drugs, which in many cases is illegal. If you give an animal antibiotic in the morning, and a different antibiotic in the afternoon you have mixed these antibiotics. You have to realize that organic beef is raised under the theory “survival of the fittest”. This means the animal that can adapt to any and all situations will be the one to survive. Organic animals get no assistance from antibiotics to help them survive. We must also realize that since there are no antibiotics allowed in organic meat, there might be a limited supply of meat. At first the death toll of untreated animals would be higher until the equilibrium of the theory adjusts. Therefore, consumers would have to carry the burden of higher prices for organic meat until such a time that the “fittest” would be the genetic pool. I am willing to carry this responsibility- How much is your peace of mind worth?

Cattle produce natural hormones. The hormones that the males produce are called testosterone and make the bull more aggressive. Older pregnant heifers produce more of the female hormones or estrogen than younger heifers. Growth hormones are given to cattle in pellet form under the skin in the animal’s ear. Some of the most common types of growth hormones are Revlar, Bovatec, and Gainpro. “Implants work by changing what happens to the nutrients that cattle eat.” (Dan Loy beef specialist Iowa State University Extention) Many people use growth hormones to produce cattle more rapidly. Producing natural production allows the producer to sell the cattle sooner than others. However, when raising organic meat there are no additional growth hormones allowed. The use of genetics in cattle breeding can produce similar results. The condition of hybrid vigor will naturally produce cattle that will convert feedstuff into pounds of muscle without the use of hormones. Some cattle producers may not raise organic cattle because of money issues. In some cases this could be a problem, but if you are careful and know what you are doing you can make more money. Since you cannot use hormones this could slow down your growth process, although it is a proven fact that you will make more money from organic meat than any other kind.

With organic meat, there are no additives in the processing stage. An additive is something being added during the process, such as pink slime or ammonia, or during the feed out process (given directly to an animal) “Pink Slime is a processed beef product that was originally used in pet food and cooking oil and later approved for public consumption” (Josh Sanburn) When you consume natural, or any meat other than organic, you are consuming harmful ingredients that could possibly make you seriously ill. Ammonia is found in fertilizers and cleaning products. “Ground beef provided through the National School Lunch Program is currently made up of ten to 15 percent ammonia-treated beef from BPI” (Norah Burton). Ammonia in meat products is supposed to kill the pathogens in the meat, however; there is no scientific evidence that it does. Eating meat that has been altered by additives, such as ammonia, could increase one’s risk of cancer. Along with increasing the risk of cancer, you would be consuming deadly ingredients and not even know it.

One of the safest products you may ever eat is organic meat. Organic meat does not contain medications. With the absence of medications, you will not have to worry about disease resistant bacteria. Another advantage of organic meat is that it does not contain hormones. Without hormones, consumers do not have to worry about the possible side effects from the hormones given to the cattle. The third advantage of organic meat is the absence of any additives. Since there are no additives one does not have to worry about consuming pink slime or ammonia. Let us not hear about ingredients in meats and not spread the word to willing listeners. Let us now spread the word about what ingredients meat contains. The public should be aware of what they are consuming.

References

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| Where’s the Beef  Student 2 | | |
| Annotation | | |
| Focus | 2.0 | Writer addresses the prompt but is uneven in the focus of the paper. The writer needed more depth on key points with more substantial support from the text. |
| Reading/Research | 2.0 | Attempts to make reference to text. However, some quotations seemed to be incomplete. |
| Controlling Idea | 3.0 | Writer states a claim at the beginning and again at the end. |
| Development | 2.0 | Writer attempts to provide details to the prompt but lacks relevance to the purpose of the prompt. There are a few places where the reader may become lost. |
| Organization | 3.0 | A clear thesis statement was given. The points of the thesis statement were discussed in order of the thesis statement and a conclusion followed. |
| Conventions | 2.0 | Writer showed uneven control of standard English. |
| Content  Understanding | 3.0 | The writer knows the issue well enough to make valid points. The depth of the points shows unevenness in the paper. |