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English 1201

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**The Value of Animal Lives**

In today’s society many humans do not know the process of the killing of animals they eat. They are not aware of the inhumane treatment of the animals who provide the meat they eat on a daily basis. These animals are beings who deserve to be treated humanely and with respect. Many people just eat this meat without knowing (***CHANGED THIS WORD AROUND)*** the fact these farm animals have lived in a poor condition (***CHANGED THIS WORD AROUND)***, endured a lot of suffering, and experienced an inhumane death. The cause of this is simply the disconnection between humans and farm animals from the past to the present (Pollan 620). Although the connection between animals and humans has been lost, (***CHANGED BECAUSE OF A SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT***) animals should be seen as beings because they have feelings, feel pain like any other domesticated animal, and should be provided with a proper welfare.

Many people do not view farm animals as sentient beings; instead (***FIXED PUNCTUATION)*** they see these animals as resources that we use for our own purpose. On the other hand we view our pet animals as part of our own family. In reality there is not much of a difference between pets and farm animals, but people seem to think otherwise. Both animals and pets, “are sentient creatures capable of feeling and experiencing pain” (Sulivan 1134). (***USED QUOTE FOR THE SOURCE BECAUSE MY PARAPHRASE WAS SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL SENTENCE FROM THE SOURCE)***Why is it that people fight for laws to protect domesticated animals, but cannot try to fight for laws to provide farm animals with better welfare?

It may be simply because there is a connection between the pet and the owner, compared to the farm animal and the one who eats it. The connection between humans and farm animals have been lost over the course of time and this may be one of the reasons why the killing of non-domesticated animals have increased. Another reason why the killing of these farm animals have increased over time it is because we see them as our property or resource (Regan 609). (***I HAD TO CITE THIS BECAUSE IT WAS REGAN’S IDEA OR THOUGHT)*** Therefore we are just using these animals to eat and survive.  (***SEPERATED THIS SENTENCE INTO TWO SENTENCES)***

The connection between humans and animals have changed throughout the years because people back than were more engaged, interacted with animals, and got to know them better.(***COMBINED BOTH OF THESE SENTENCES)***There seems to be lack of connection between farm animals and humans now a days. We are unconscious when we eat them because we do not see these animals on a daily basis and this may be a problem (Pollan 620). Since we do not see or interact with these farm animals on a daily basis we do not really pay mind when we eat them. We also do not think of how these animals were raised or if they were treated humanely. We just perceive these animals as our resource who provide us with the dairy products and meat that we eat every day (Pollan 628). On the other hand domesticated animals like our pets are viewed differently than farm animals because there is a connection or bond between the pet and the owner.  The connection between the pet and the owner may be the reason why these animals we call pets receive a better life and treatment than farm animals. We still consider both the farm animals and pets as our property but we decide to kill one group of animals for our own purpose.

Since we view these farm animals as our property or resource, the least we can do is provide them with a proper welfare in which they can live in. (***ELIMINATED SENTENCE IN BETWEEN)***Although this may seem like the solution, animal activists think differently. (***ADDED THIS SENTENCE TO MAKE IT FLOW SMOOTHER)*** They believe that even if you treat an animal humanely it does not give you the right to kill them. Tom Regan, an animal activist, believes the viewing of animals as a resource is a fundamental wrong (609). He also believes that, “all who have inherent value have it equally, whether they be human animals or not” (Regan 616). I find it hard to disagree with Regan’s theory because according to, (***CHANGED THE WORDING AROUND SO THAT THE QUOTE COULD FLOW SMOOTHER)***“Steve Davis, an animal scientist, [he] estimated that if America were to adopt a strictly vegetarian diet, the total number of animals killed every year would actually *increase,*as animal pasture gave way to row crops” (Pollan 630). This estimate goes to show how Regan’s argument has a weakness because he believes that animals should not be killed but if we stop the killing of animals, more animals would die annually. I also cannot agree with Regan’s argument because the Christian doctrine does not go against the killing of animals or does not view it as a sin (Arora 29). This does not mean we should abuse our power over these animals, we should treat these animals with a proper welfare, according to Matthew Scully’s essay it states that, “God gave man dominion over animals,” but we should treat them with mercy (Pollan 626). (***HAD TO USE THE DIRECT QUOTE BECAUSE IT WAS TOO SIMILAR TO MY PARAPHRASING)***

However, for those who do not believe in the Christian doctrine may disagree with how they feel about certain animals according to their religion. (***ADDED THIS SENTENCE FOR A BETTER TRANSITION***) According to Hinduism, they view cows as being sacred and as the highest possible form of being reincarnated. As opposed to us who are of some type of Christianity faith, who eat cows on a daily basis. The Buddhist, however, believe that they should not harm any living being or creature. Much of Regan’s argument may be supported with the Buddhist teachings. The religion of Islam prohibits Muslims to eat pork because they believe pigs are dirty animals because they roll in their own feces. (***CHANGED THE WORDS AROUND)*** Although every religion in the world has their own beliefs, it does not give us the right to treat these farm animals inhumanely. We have morals and a better understanding than animals when we commit something that is ethically wrong or immoral. Therefore the killing of animals should not be based off religions, but it should be based off of our moral understanding and knowing that these animals are being who do not want to endure suffering. Even though they will endure suffering in our hands or in the wild, we should attempt to provide them with a better welfare (Pollan 632). (***I HAD TO CITE THIS)***Otherwise we are just abusing and killing these animals without any compassion or respect for them.(***ADDED THESE SENTENCES TO STATE THAT THE KILLING OF ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE BASED OFF RELIGIONS, BUT THAT WE AS HUMANS SHOULD KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT FROM WRONG. ALTHOUGH THE KILLING IS WRONG, THE INHUMANE TREATMENT IS EVEN WORSE.)***

The inhumane raising and treatment of these animals is viewed as immoral and should stop because we do not mistreat our pets. Therefore, farm animals should not get mistreated.(***SEPERATED INTO TWO SENTENCES)***Farm animals deserve a better welfare and to be treatedas beings instead of objects. (***CHANGED THE WORDS AROUND)*** We see our pets as our property and try to provide the best for them. Even though we do not kill our pets it is because we view them as being part of our family and they are easier to train in the house than farm animals (Arora 28). (***I HAD TO CITE THIS BECAUSE IT WAS NOT MY OWN IDEA)*** Perhaps if someone would be willing to raise farm animals as a pet than there would be a different outcome. (***CHANGED THE WORDS AROUND)***Some farm animals would possibly become someone’s pet and avoid from being killed to be sold. Although it may seem as if our pets and farm animals are just animals in general, their lives hold different values.

There seems to be a distinction between the lives of domesticated and non-domesticated animals. For the most part domesticated animals end up being treated humanely in our homes, where we provide our pets with the love and care they deserve. We even have a bond with our pets by giving them a name. While the non-domesticated animals are treated poorly and inhumane in factory farms. According to Arora, “these factory farms feed these farm animals inhumanely so they can gain more weight and were injected with hormones which caused liver damage” (28). Farm animals were also in close confinement with other animals and had no space, to avoid injuries these farms would cut off “their horns, beaks, or tails without the use of anesthesia” (Arora 28). These non-domesticated animals are going to die regardless in our hands or in the wild (Pollan 632).(***SEPERATED INTO TWO SENTENCES. ALSO CHANGED THE WORDS IN THE LAST PART OF SECOND SENTENCE. I HAD TO CITE THIS ALSO.)***Therefore, we should provide them with proper conditions to live in. It is our responsibility as the superior being to provide a better welfare for these animals who are inferior to us (Anthony 274).

In order to provide a good environment and welfare for farm animals it requires, “natural diets, open spaces for living, eliminating the use of hormones that explode body weight and mutilations like chopping off beaks, tongues, and tails, together with more stringent training for caretakers and inspectors, surveillance cameras, professionals who enforce laws and prosecute violators, and so on—all of which make meat more expensive” (Arora 31). This is a great example of how farm animals should be properly raised and not mistreated. After all they are sentient beings who deserve to be respected and to be treated humanely (Sullivan 1134). (***SEPERATED INTO TWO SENTENCES AND CHANGED THE WORDS IN THE LAST PART OF SECOND SENTENCE)***Even though the meat production may be more expensive, it is ethically right to provide these animals with a better welfare before they are killed. For those who cannot afford this meat it may be because of their situation economically or because they do not feel the need to be purchasing this meat which is more expensive. They wonder why they would purchase this meat if they can get the same one from a factory farm for a cheaper price. Those who are less fortunate may not be able to purchase products from these ethical farms because of their situation, but it does not mean they should not be able to purchase meat. They have the right to purchase and eat meat like any other human being. Even though it is wrong to purchase from factory farms because of the inhumane treatment of animals. (***WHY LESS FORTUNATE PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PURCHASE MEAT, EVEN THOUGH IT IS ETHICALLY WRONG TO BUY FROM A FACTORY FARM)*** However, people who could afford it should purchase their meats from these ethical farms because it is the right and ethical thing to do. They would also know how these animals were raised and treated when they are eating them.

Not everyone feels the same way on how animals should be treated before they are killed. Slaughter houses conduct their business in an inhumane manner. They conduct their business behind closed doors so that others may not see what they are doing (Arora 29). (***FORGOT TO CITE THIS)***They view these animals not as beings but just as business. If the cost of the meat would rise by treating these animals humanely than these slaughter houses believe that the humane treatment of animals goes against their business. (***CHANGED THE WORDING AROUND)*** They would be losing money if they decide to conduct their business according to how it should be properly conducted. Which is to provide these animals with a better welfare. (***SEPERATED THIS SENTENCE AND CHANGED THE WORDING)*** It is unethical to continue mistreating these animals, which is why there should be laws and regulations to help farm animals receive a better life and welfare. If there is no action regarding laws or regulations for farm animals then an alternative might be to let these factory farms be open to the public. (***ADDED THIS SENTENCE BECAUSE WHAT IF THERE ARE NO LAWS OR REGULATIONS, THEN IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR FACTORY FARMS TO BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)***

If these farms are open to the public, the public can see for themselves if the killing and treatment of these animals are humane or not. This experience can open the eyes of many and change their views of how they saw farm animals before and after (Arora 31). (***ELIMINATED SENTENCE IN BETWEEN)***After seeing the inhumane killings it can have a great impact on a person because they might feel bad for the inhumane death of the animal. Based off this experience people can make a judgment whether or not the inhumane treatment of these animals should continue or not. These animals are beings who have feelings, feel pain, and suffering like any of our pets at home (Arora 31). (***SEPERATED THIS SENTENCE INTO TWO SENTENCES)***

This human experience may be the solution for people changing their views and supporting(***CHANGING THE WORD TO MAKE IT SOUND BETTER AND IT FITS BETTER IN THE SENTENCE)*** the better welfare and treatment of farm animals. Both farm animals and pets are not so different after all, they both feel the same thing as one another. Therefore, the lives of our pets should not be valued over the lives of farm animals but not everyone may agree with this. They may disagree because farm animals have been killed for years and years which has become part of our identity (Pollan 631). However, people should realize that farm animals are sentient beings who should be treated humanely the same way pets are treated. The killing of farm animals looks like it is going to keep on for now, it is our responsibility to try and provide these farm animals with a better life. The same way we provide for our pets because it seems like the right thing to do. ***SEPERATED THIS SENTENCE INTO TWO SENTENCES)*** After all we are using these farm animals as our resource and we should at least let them live a humane life before they are killed to be sold to the public for meat. It is a shame to say that we view pets as having a higher value over the lives of farm animals, but if we would stop the killing of farm animals completely many more animals would die.

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**Rubric for 1201RD Essay 3**

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| **Criteria** | **Doesn’t meet criterion yet** | **Partially meets criterion but needs work** | **Generally meets criterion** | **Completely meets criterion, even if not “perfect”** | **Comments** |
| THESIS  Well-developed idea about a narrowed-down topic that has potential to make reader think more deeply; author deals with relevant arguments  of several sources representing multiple perspectives. |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| ORGANIZATION  Transitions between ¶s make essay flow. Organization should come from the categories you discovered while taking notes. |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| EVIDENCE & REASONING  Examples, quotations, and analogies support the thesis.  Should include connections between sources |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| Sense of AUTHOR’S VOICE and strong style |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| MLA Style  Essay format and source citation follows MLA style |  |  |  | **X** |  |
| SENTENCE-LEVEL  Proper grammar, punctuation; clear well-structured sentences |  |  |  | **X** |  |

**METATEXT**

After writing and revising this final draft I’ve noticed how my writing has improved. I’m happy and satisfied because I’ve learned how to come up with a thesis for my paper and always refer back to it. How to introduce different arguments from different authors or sources and state why I may agree or disagree and state my position. My transition from paragraph to paragraph has improved and I think when I write now my reader knows where I’m heading. I used different resources to provide evidence for my argument and also to provide counter arguments to challenge my argument. I might need to work on sentences with grammar because I feel like that needs to be improved. I also had to revise to check whether I properly paraphrased correctly or if I should have used the direct quote. I had to make sure I cited anything idea or thought that was not originally mine. I found that reading my sentences aloud helped me realize if I made a mistake and tried fixing it as best as possible. Overall I’ve have a good experience doing research about this topic and writing this essay.

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