

Exercises

For each of the four chapters, you should complete the following and turn it in on the assigned date.

Introduction	Mon. 1/26
Ch 1 (The Apple)	Wed 2/11
Ch 2 (The Tulip)	Fri 3/6
Ch 3 (Cannabis)	Wed 4/1
Ch 4 (The Potato)	Wed 5/13

- A. Choose one sentence from each chapter and freewrite about the ideas in that sentence (150-200 words)
- B. Choose one paragraph in each chapter, and identify (and analyze) the organizational form of that paragraph. (*definition, comparison, cause, effect, description, etc.*)
Is there a topic sentence? If so, where is it (beginning? middle? end?). How does the author support his main point in this paragraph? What is the purpose of this paragraph? (In other words, why did Pollan include it?)
- C. List complete bibliographic information for *two* sources in each chapter. Explain (in several sentences) why Pollan has included each reference (in other words, what does each reference add to the chapter? How does it strengthen Pollan's point?).

Example:

1. Thoreau, Henry David. "Wild Apples," in *The Natural History Essays*, introduction and notes by Robert Sattelmeyer (Salt Lake City: Pergrine Smith Books, 1980). (Pollan, p. 45)

In the first part of this paragraph, Pollan reports how Americans in the 19th century were often watching their apple trees, hoping one would produce a kind of apple that would be very popular and earn the owner lots of money. This quotation supports that idea, because Thoreau, who lived at the same time as Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman, says that "Every wild apple . . . is, perhaps, a prince in disguise." This is an example of someone from the 19th century who is saying the same thing that Pollan is saying, so it strengthens Pollan's point.

2.

- D. Answer the given number of the Comprehension questions (You choose which ones to answer; be sure to label them clearly – list the question numbers.) from the Study Guide, in writing. Most answers can be short (2-3 sentences); for some, I have asked for longer development of your ideas. You may answer more than the required number of questions: each additional question that you answer correctly will add two points to your grade. (The pre-reading questions will be used for discussion in class. I encourage you to think about them, and perhaps make some notes, but you do not need to answer them in writing.)
- E. Ask *four* questions of your own. At least two of these questions should be **content-based, interpretive questions**. You should also answer these two questions, in 2-3 sentences each.

Two of your questions may be vocabulary or grammar questions, or literal questions about the content or meaning. Leave a space to write in the answers to these questions, once you find out.