

## Writing Assignment 2 "Food, fields, and farmers in 2050"

In Writing Assignment #1, you have described a place, town, or neighborhood that you considered home. Now, think about the **same place** and imagine how it will **look like in 2050** (try!!). Obviously, we are talking about a **purely hypothetical SCENARIO**, so feel free to let your **imagination** rule your thoughts! What is important is to integrate concepts and examples we have covered in class (see suggestions below). Write in the present tense as if you were looking out the window of your house in the year 2050. If the place you have in mind is a rural area, describe what type of food is produced and the various technologies used for production. How do the fields look like? Are there still farmers as we know them or will robots have replaced human management? For those of you who refer to an urban area as "home", portray from where your city gets its daily food. Is it urban agriculture, imports from exotic places around the globe, or clinical food factories?

Your essay should be 1 ½ to 2 pages in length (not more!). Write logically and in complete sentences, but be concise. The assignment must be typed using Times, 12 pt font, double-spaced. It is worth 100 pts. (10% of your final grade) and is DUE on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class. Grading will be based on creativity, completeness, quality of the writing, and incorporation of relevant issues discussed in class.

**GIVE YOUR SCENARIO AN APPROPRIATE (compelling!) NAME.** Be enthused, eloquent, and persuasive!

Address as many of the below points as possible, but do not feel constrained by or obligated to the list.

1. Is your place dependent on genetically modified (engineered) food? If yes, what are the main criteria in determining the genetic mix? Who decides which mix to use and what people should eat?
2. If it is organically grown food that feeds your place, are there any specific production standards?
3. Is food production orchestrated to balance global over-consumption against world hunger? If so, how?
4. Is agriculture still dependent on material cycling (as we know it) or designed in laboratories?
5. How diverse, flexible, and resilient is your food producing system? Is it natural? Engineered?
6. Do producers use fertilizer, pesticides or any futuristic inputs or is the system self-regulating?
7. How do the farmers look like in your area? Are they techno-freaks? Bio-growers? Robots?
8. Where does waste go in 2050? Is it recycled or does it pile up in a gigantic dump?
9. Is the productive land (if land is still used for agriculture) a mosaic of different habitats?
10. Do producers provide environmental services other than food production? If so, which?
11. Is the agricultural system adapted to human systems and vice versa? How have they coevolved over the last 45 years? Or are they a random result of a major system collapse? What about crop pests?
12. What are the dominant values people in your place share about nature, food, health, and equity?
13. Does your place resemble an idyllic 'Happy Valley' or a dark, gloomy metropolitan apocalypse?