

Common Reading Program Activity

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The book *The Postmortal* brings up numerous questions pertaining to the future of our society if the rules we've come to know and appreciate suddenly changed. At times, the text can be entertaining, and at times it can be down right terrifying, if we consider the events to truly become a reality. It is especially intriguing if we view the actions within the book through a "cause and effect" lens or domino effect, where one action leads to another and leads to another.

The essay "The End of Food" also deals with changes that could drastically impact society. Although changes in food seem fairly mild mannered compared to a ridiculous life span, there are multiple ways that our choices with food can affect so many long and short-term issues within society.

Read the essay "The End of Food" by Lizzie Widdicombe (link posted below).

As you read and reflect on the essay, consider the following questions. These questions can be answered individually or as a small group. Enjoy a discussion and/or debate involving your response to the questions below.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/05/12/the-end-of-food>

- What connection points can be made between "The End of Food" and *The Postmortal*?
- Which do you believe is greater, the positives or negatives of the product Soylent?
- Would you ever consider living off a food diet completely based on Soylent? Why or why not?
- A person's individual food choices seem small compared with larger life issues. However, how can these food decisions lead to a much larger impact on a local and world scale?

For Further Action...

- Discussion topic that can be turned into an essay assignment –
Consider the world of *The Postmortal* the way that Widdicombe considers food in the essay "The End of Food". Make an argument based off of the book about how you see a world without aging to be. What does the future look like for humanity?