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English 110 H

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Considering…

The middle is the place to be, what is right and what is wrong at this point? There will never be a clear understanding of these ethical obligations to animals. These ideas of eating animals as well as experimenting on them has struck a big debate on what is right and what is wrong. This debate has seemed to be heavily agreed on by individuals who have studied this topic a significant amount but most of the population have not done research on the rights of these animals. My next question is why don’t people react this way when eating plants? When eating plants, we are killing them as well just like the animals we eat, but that is never a common idea talked about. What you believe and how you go about considering not just animals but considering everything else we stumble on throughout the day is up to you. Many individuals tend to say one thing but do the other. After reading articles such as *considering the lobster* by Davis Foster Wallace as well as *Animals like us* by Herzog, I have never thought of the meat I ate as actual living animals until this very point in time. I seem to fall in the middle as everyone calls it, but the more I think about it the harder I find to keep shoving meat down my throat. This idea of considering what is right and what is wrong is ultimately up to the individual in the end.

*Animals like us* is a strong article that brings up many important points on human relationships with creatures no matter how big or small they are as well as where they are from. Hai Herzog expresses some of the decisions that our human culture make on animals, how far do certain humans go for certain animals. Herzog, like many other individuals in this world, is conflicted about the ethical obligations to animals. Do we really see the world not just in black and white but grey as well? Humans are way more intelligent than animals, we think much deeper, have a greater capacity for symbolic language, we have many cultures and so much judgement. But does this make it ok to do the things to animals that our culture has been doing for many years? What makes animals so different from us? This idea goes so much deeper than just a yes or no answer, it is greatly discussed all over the world all the time and will always continue to be.

Animals are compared very closely to humans and is even said to experience things in a way that us humans do. “Consciousness, the state of awareness that animates out every waking moment, the sense of being located in a body that exists within a larger world of color, sound, and touch, all of it filtered through out thoughts and imbued by emotion” (Andersen 2). Animals are living creatures therefore, they must have a conscious. Animals are very intelligent, in japan a certain population of crows will open a can of walnuts by dropping in into traffic, cars will then hit the can and soon it will crack open. After the crow sees that it is open it will come down once traffic is stopped and pick up the can of nuts. This is something that takes having a conscious, it takes thought, a driven plan. Some humans don’t even have common sense not to walk into a road with tons of cars, meanwhile think about opening a can of nuts by dropping it into the streets.

The idea of animal consciousness has struck many other questions as well. One major one is, do animals feel pain? Judith, in animals like us, believes that it is wrong to kill animals just simply because they taste good. On another note, the Maine Lobster Festival is purely lobster which are almost always boiled alive. Both these situations are ones that will never be set on a specific answer, this is where the grey comes into place. The nervous system of the lobster is very simple, it is decentralized with no brain, no cerebral cortex (Wallace 504). With no cerebral cortex there is no emotional experience of pain, suffering, or distress. While this may be true according to *considering the lobster,* this is morally not ok even if the lobster doesn’t feel the pain, some people do find it ok. No matter what the lobster will still claw to get out of the pot and try to free its self from the scorching hot water. Without a conscious would the lobsters still try to free its self from dying, would the lobster even know what is going on in that point in time? How do humans not think once about boiling this alive breathing animal when it is not even dead? I personally have not thought about the meat that I am eating, how it is killed, how its being treated or just anything about the animals until now.