**Homework #13: *The Omnivore's Dilemma* Chapter Seventeen: "The Ethics of Eating Animals" (Due**

Answer each question below in at least three complete sentences. You must include a direct quotation, paraphrase or summary in each answer to receive full credit.

1. How has the modern meat industry distanced consumers and animals from one another? How has this affected the American attitude toward food animals and meat eating?
2. Peter Singer, in the book *Animal Liberation*, argues that "equality is a moral idea [...] not an assertion of fact." Through this logic, he argues that "everyone's interests ought to receive equal consideration regardless of 'what they are like or what abilities they have.'" Therefore, "If possessing a higher degree of intelligence does not entitle one human to use another for his or her own ends, how can it entitle humans to exploit non-humans for the same purpose?" (Pollan 307). Do you agree with this logic? Why or why not? If you were faced with this argument, how would you logically defend your desire to continue eating meat? (In other words, "it tastes good" is not an acceptable argument in a moral debate.)
3. What is the "argument for marginal cases" (308)?
4. What is speciesism and how does it affect the meat eater's moral rationale for eating meat? How does Pollan refute notions of speciesism (via the work of animal rightists such as Singer)?
5. What does Michael Pollan argue is lost when one becomes a vegetarian? Do you think these are reasons enough to continue eating meat?
6. How is the behavior of laying hens evidence of suffering (vs. mere pain)?
7. Pollan argues that there is an "economic impulse to erode the moral underpinnings of society" (318). How do the practices of the industrial food system support this argument?
8. How does Pollan argue that the happiness (or suffering) of a domestic animal is a result of "mutualism or symbiosis between species" (320)?  How might this argument support the idea of eating meat (in more humane ways, of course)?
 9. How does considering an individual animal versus the group of animals as a whole change the moral consideration of eating meat?
 10. How does Michael Pollan eventually argue in support of meat eating? What benefits does meat eating (and therefore the production of food animals) provide?
 11. How does Pollan distinguish between "animal welfare" and "animal rights" (328)?
12. How has the loss of ritual in contemporary slaughter and animal eating made "looking" and continuing to eat meat less tolerable?
13. How does Pollan's view of "looking" tie into Annie Leonard and the Quaker principle of "bearing witness"?