

ESSAY 2 PHASE 1

Student 1 • Prof. Mani • Fall 2020

Controlling Idea:

Cultural artifacts in the form of tantalizing images of food are the basis of the food porn community on Reddit. Every day there are multiple posts of people displaying and showing off their culinary skills while awaiting praise and envy from other members of the subreddit. This can be representative in zoomed images of comfort foods like pizza, or in gooey depictions of decadent desserts. This community is instinctively wired to focus on the presentation of the food as the very meaning of food porn has largely to do with the provocative display of food itself. Whether that be through racy reactions, a stamp of approval of how well of a job the creator of the artifact did, or even asking for the recipe. Other reactions may even include expressions of longing for the food displayed. However, all of these reactions serve as motivation and purpose for a community member to post their cultural artifact or creation. Such an environment then creates a space where members can confidently display their food with praise and circulation of their artifact in return. The exigence, circulation, and community members of the artifact then work together in the effort to upkeep the overall culture of r/foodporn on Reddit.