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ENG 110 H4

Paper 3

I can remember several times when my mother would remind me to, "be respectful and considerate of other people," before walking into church every Sunday morning. She would mention this to me, not because I was disobedient, but because it was her motherly instinct to do so. Having heard such phrase countless times, I never really analyzed what the words in this simple order meant. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word 'considerate' as simply, "to be careful not to inconvenience or harm others." Now identifying this definition, my mother probably meant to stay quiet when entering the church and pews, as this was a place of worship not a playground. However, after studying several texts relating to the term, "considerate", I have come to discover that society today transforms this idea to have several different levels. That the idea of being considerate may eventually lead to a negative outcome, rather than the intended positive. This concept has a dominant role in three literary pieces: David Foster Wallace's "Consider the Lobster", Michael Pollan's "The Meal – Fast Food" and Jessica Mitford's "The Story of Service"; the idea of consideration towards other individuals and species are shown to have various concentrations. It is through these different concentrations that lead to the unintended negative outcome in American society today.

The shift in the outcomes of considerate actions in America today are greatly exploited through the funeral system. Analyzing the American funeral system, Jessica Mitford describes several "considerate" tendencies of funeral directors. An eye-opening trend of these services is the dismissing of the family of a deceased individual before the beginning of embalment on the body. About this relationship between the embalmer and the family Mitford writes,

"In the early days of American embalming, when it was performed in the home of the deceased, it was almost mandatory for some relative to stay by the embalmer's side and witness the

Comment [1]: I don't think you need quotes here

Comment [2]: phrase?

Comment [3]: I would say "now knowing this definition, I realize that my mother probably meant for me to stay quiet.

Comment [4]: make sure the commas and periods go inside the quotation marks

Comment [5]: inside***

Comment [6]: I'm a little confused about what you are saying...I would just clarify a little bit

Comment [7]: I think I know what you are trying to say here, but I would make the wording a little simpler just so its more understandable. I just am not sure what you mean by concentrations

Comment [8]: This is an interesting angle and I like how you began with a personal connection

Comment [9]: elaborate on this point here

procedure. Today, family members who might wish to be in attendance would certainly be dissuaded by the funeral director” (44)

As one who has experienced this **dissuading** first hand, this procedure by funeral directors is controversial. Mitford later indicates, the whole embalment process can be rather morbid and unappealing. To make a dead body look like the individual is simply sleeping, there are several procedures taken by the embalmer such as pumping of organs, insertion of chemicals and sewing of the mouth. Such **morbid** tasks may be difficult for any individual to witness. However, this does not justify the dissuading of the family from encountering the procedure. Attending the funeral of my good friend Chad’s grandmother, we were brought in front of the open casket. Standing next to Chad, there was a motif of thoughts between every on-looker of the body. “She looks beautiful” several individuals stated prior to giving Chad’s family condolences. This statement bothered Chad, and when I eventually asked him about it he replied, “She does not look like my grandmother. Nana never wore makeup, ever, but now she has everything on, even lipstick. This is not how I want to remember her.” This powerful quote **burst** in my brain as I read about this tendency to not allow families to witness the embalment of bodies. An attempt to be considerate and compassionate towards the sorrowful family is now the reason for the unpleased service and goodbye the Oliver family had to make with their Nana.

Similarly, the consumerism industry will attempt to portray a considerate mindset to its buyers, however these actions may deem negative externalities. Michael Pollan’s essay narrates the technique typically carried out by companies and businesses to their consumers in his essay “The Meal – Fast Food”. Pollan exposes this strategy through his visit to McDonald’s with his family. As society has shifted to a more rushed and busy state, not many people will believe they have time to go sit down somewhere to eat food. It is through this ideology that fast-food restaurants have thrived with their menu products that scream “time-saver”. Chicken McNuggets are one of these menu items for McDonalds.

To help people living in today’s society cope with this rushed lifestyle, McDonald’s introduced chicken nuggets with the qualities of, “[liberating] chicken from the fork and plate, making it as convenient, waste-free and automobile-friendly” (Pollan 110). This was a considerate move by the

Comment [10]: maybe theres another word you can use instead

Comment [11]: I would just take this word out here because you say it later on

Comment [12]: Have you experienced this or Mitford? clarify

Comment [13]: maybe gruesome instead?

Comment [14]: maybe theres another word thats less violent than bursts here

Comment [15]: really interesting connection here. Maybe you could even go into more detail as to if embalming is really necessary. This would help drive your point about how embalming is not always good

Comment [16]: This paragraph is good, but I think you can add more and elaborate on it...I would try to connect it to the previous paragraph some more

business. McDonald's recognized the busyness of their consumer's schedules and adjusted their menu accordingly. However, to maintain the same taste as before while also adjusting the characteristics of the product, McDonald's was forced to manipulate their chicken. Chemicals are now sprayed on each nugget, to keep them smelling, tasting, and looking good even when not consumed right away. Again, another fact that may appear to be a considerate move by the business, but this one has a negative side-effect. The chemical used "on the nugget or inside of the box it comes in" is tertiary butylhydroquinone, or TBHQ. TBHQ is a form of butane, also known as lighter fluid. Such alarming and disgusting fact about these chicken nuggets are not presented to consumers of these chicken McNuggets and instead are put on the back burner for consumers to potentially find out. The idea of this menu item was to coincide with the busy lifestyle people today endure. However, do not let this positive idea fool you, as the availability of such chicken nuggets should not mask the harmful and gross chemicals they are sprayed with.

Comment [17]: Hasn't McDonalds always been fast food and on the go? Why is the chicken nugget any different

Comment [18]: I like your word choice here

Comment [19]: add "an"

Comment [20]: I would make this two sentences

Comment [21]: Maybe you could even go into what it means to be considerate as a consumer, and not always trust big companies? Or go into more detail about how deceiving this is on McDonalds' part

Comment [22]: maybe say potentially dangerous

Comment [23]: I think you have a clear idea and a great draft started. I like your angle and I think there's a lot you could talk about. I like how you have included personal connections to things that really help strengthen your points. I think as you develop your draft you could definitely add to your thesis, and I think just develop your ideas a bit further. These will all come with continuing the draft. I think you have a great idea here nice job!

Comment [24]: Overall, this is a great draft. You have many good ideas and did a great job connecting what we have read to your own life. I like the quotes you have used so far as well. Make sure that you include David Foster Wallace though too. I think you could also include some more about how all three texts are related and how they differ from each other as well as from your life. The organization was good, just be sure your thesis reflects this. You are definitely on the right track though, this is a good start!