Appendix

Prompt #1:

Cultural Event Analysis     Spring 2012 Global Appetites/Local Tastes
Due Date: Wednesday, February 8

Cultural Event Analysis: (50 points)

Electronic submission: upload this assignment to the Oncourse page of your section.

File name format: Last name Cultural Event.doc OR Last name Cultural Event.docx

This assignment asks you to use some of what you have learned about the role of food within culture from your visit to the Mathers Museum and the Lilly Library, as well as the assigned readings in class in order to analyze one of the following food related events: the Lunar New Year celebration at the Monroe County Public Library, The Taste of Union Street (Jan 25), or What’s Cooking on Friday (Jan 27) at the ACC. Information on all of these events is available on the ANNOUNCEMENTS tab of the LECTURE Oncourse.

Write answers to all of the following questions in clear prose. The end result should not be one whole essay, but three distinct answers clearly labeled:

1. Briefly describe the event you attended, making sure to list the date/time/title. Explain what went on and who did what including a reference to the scope of your own participation. (10 pts)
2. Analyze how the event in which you participated presented food as an integral part of a specific non-American cultural tradition. (20 pts) Things to consider: Was the dish served/demonstrated typical of a region of a given country or popular throughout? Is it
part of homemade traditions or is it usually part of more refined dining, such as restaurant
fare? Is it consumed or prepared at a particular time of year only or enjoyed year round?
These are not the only valid comments you can make, but the questions will guide you
towards analysis.

3. Explain how the event and its staging at the ACC, at Union Street, or at the Monroe
County Public Library discussed the local dimensions of this cultural event which had to
do with food. (20 pts) In other words, can the featured meal(s) be replicated in
Bloomington easily? Or, would the audience have to secure ingredients for this dish by
shopping at a specialty store? Is the presenter a member of the Bloomington community
or someone visiting from somewhere else? Is an event like this something which the
Asian Culture Center, Monroe County Public Library, or Union Street hosts regularly?
Or, is this a one of a kind?—go ahead and ask.

Please upload your essays to the Assignment 2 tab on your Section Oncourse page.

Pedagogical Rationale: This exercise models the type of analytical writing which will be used
in the midterm exam.

Excellent Work Example:

This is an example of a student who followed the requirements of the prompt, and was able to
analyze the event s/he attended in light of our class discussions and readings.

C103 Spring 2012 Cultural Event Rubric 50/50 A+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>A (45-50)</th>
<th>B (40-44)</th>
<th>C (35-39)</th>
<th>D (30-34)</th>
<th>F (0-29)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Describe event (10 pts)</td>
<td>States when &amp; where event was held. Discusses what went on, who prepared</td>
<td>States when or where held. Discusses what went on but Not who did what;</td>
<td>Vague summary of event without many specifics. Should mention country/cult</td>
<td>Vague discussion of event without any specifics. May mention country</td>
<td>List of event date/time but no discussion. Vague gesture towards country</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What &amp; name of food; mentions own role. Explains what kind of culture/country</td>
<td>may not name dish; discussion of own role vague or missing; Explains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>country/culture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Food in non Amer tradit (20 pt)</td>
<td>Sentences add up to a cohesive, analytical paragraph that explains how</td>
<td>List of sentences that are analytical but do not necessarily add up to a cohesive</td>
<td>Sentences are more descriptive than analytical. Discusses</td>
<td>Cursory discussion of dish’s origin and context but may not go into detail</td>
<td>Brief discussion of food item; perhaps a reference</td>
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1. I attended the Lunar New Year celebration at the Monroe County Public Library on January 21 from 2 o’clock until 4. The first activity was a presentation put on by various members of the local Asian community and members of the Asian culture center here at IU among other IU affiliated groups. There was a guitar performance of a classical Japanese song, a play explaining the meanings of the animals of the Chinese New Year, a dance performance, and an old Chinese folktale told by one of the library staff. Afterwards, there was traditional Japanese food that had been prepared such as mochi, a sweet doughnut ball filled with red bean paste, California roll sushi, fried crab, and more.
Members from various Asian culture groups were running a face painting station as well as an arts and crafts section. Good recap.

2. The food was an important part of the event, and the prepared Japanese dishes were prepared in traditional fashion. There was not an overwhelming amount of information available about the foods, the cooks were more focused on explaining what each dish was so that everyone would be interested in tasting these parts of their heritage. Most of the dishes were sweet, dessert like dishes; delicacies that were made for occasions such as this one. The California roll and fried crab were exceptions; these did not seem to be every day meals but did not require an occasion to make them. All the dishes were simple in their ingredients and structure, which leads me to believe that this would not be a ‘gourmet’ section of the Japanese cuisine, however a very appropriate portrayal of normal courses, meals, or desserts. The ingredients very much reflected the Japanese culture; they all seemed to be able to be locally grown in Japan. There was crab and sushi, normal fare for Japanese coastal towns, as well as rice and bean based food from the rural farm areas. The dessert foods were mochi balls and a small bread item that resembled a tiny elephant ear. None of the desserts were incredibly sweet, like you would find in America, instead they were thought provokingly sweet and savory with a dusting of sugar that tickled the taste buds. The foods very much reflected the reserved, traditional Japanese culture while the presentation focused on the immersion into a new culture, coaxing those of us not familiar with traditional Asian cuisine to try a taste of their heritage. Good job on explaining the dishes’ cultural roles.

3. The ingredients of the food presented at the Lunar New Year celebration were all easily available in a town like Bloomington, and with such places like the Lilly Library recipes would be easy to come by. Also, the food was something that could be reproduced easily by anybody, although it might take a little practice to prepare it with the skill that the cooks prepared the dishes. All of the dishes were made by local members of the community who got involved at their local library: the Monroe Public Library. This was a once a year event celebrating the coming of the new year, but with that will occur perennially at the same time every year with the support of the interested local community. Excellent report on the event you attended.

Good Work Example:

This is an example of someone who followed all the instructions of the prompt, but whose observations and analysis did not go much beyond the surface level.

C103 Spring 2012 Cultural Event Rubric 42/50 B

<table>
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<td>2 Food in non Amer tradit (20 pt)</td>
<td>Sentences add up to a cohesive, analytical paragraph that explains how dish was/is integral to a specific country, region, and cultural tradition; distinguishes popular vs regional specialty; mentions whether it is served all year or on spec occasions; and whether it is homemade or can only be ordered in restaurants</td>
<td>List of sentences that are analytical but do not necessarily add up to a cohesive whole paragraph. Explains the dish’s role within a culture, and when it is consumed. May be a bit more vague about what kind of cuisine it represents—fine dining or homemade, popular dish or a regional specialty.</td>
<td>Sentences are more descriptive than analytical. Discusses tradition, but not food’s role w/in it; May mention pop or regional, but not explain; may mention homemade vs fine dining w/o explanation; may mention spec occasion but not which.</td>
<td>Cursory discussion of dish’s origin and context but may not go into detail about when it’s eaten or how. Impressionistic set of sentences; low on specifics.</td>
<td>Brief discussion of food item; perhaps a reference to the country or technique used to make it. Not coherent.</td>
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<td>3 Local dimensions (20 pt)</td>
<td>Sentences add up to a cohesive, analytical paragraph that explains how the venue impacts the event’s unfolding, mentions whether event is part of a series? Presenter from Bton or not? Explains whether meal</td>
<td>List of sentences that are analytical and discuss setting how does venue impact event? Event one of or series? Presenter from Bton or not? Explains whether meal</td>
<td>Descriptive sentences that mention venue and event w/o analysis. Vague connection between event and Bloomington.</td>
<td>Cursory description of event. Repetitive without being analytical.</td>
<td>Brief discussion of where the event was held without much explanation of how it’s “local.” Not much written.</td>
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1. The event that I attended was the Cooking Demonstration at the Asian Cultural Center on Friday January 27 at 5pm. The demonstration, presented by the Asian Cultural Center was with Peilin Chiu who teaches cooking classes at “East-Meets-West Kitchen”. We gathered in a small room in the Asian Culture Center and it was quite packed! There were not just students from this class there, but other interested people from the IU community which I thought was neat! Questions were encouraged from the observers and at the end of the demonstration, samples of the dish were given out. Name the dishes and identify the country and region it is from. Respond to the assignment prompt.

2. The cooking demonstration was of Taiwanese Glutinous Rice. The instructor provided us with lots of information about the dishes’ place in Taiwanese cuisine. When a family has a one month old baby boy, the family will present the dish to friends and family as a gift. Traditionally, the family would bring over the dish to the houses of the recipients and in return, the recipients would return the bowl with a gift inside for good fortune. Ms. Chiu told us that this preparation is unique to Taiwan. She said that today, there are companies that will make and deliver the dish to family and friends rather than it being homemade. Could have included more details here. For example, why only in Taiwan and not in China?

3. In Bloomington, there are actually a surprising amount of specialty stores. Although one might be able to find many ingredients for this dish at the grocery store, Ms. Chiu made a few suggestions about where to find the best ingredients in order to make Asian cuisine in general. She suggested that Sahara Mart would have many of these ingredients. Ms. Chiu is a member of the Bloomington community. She teaches cooking classes at “East-Meets-West Kitchen” which I’m sure she’s great at given the wonderful presentation she gave. She had a lot of great suggestions about what brands to buy in regards to Asian cuisine which was helpful. The Asian Culture Center frequently holds cultural events such as this demonstration. The question 3 specifically asks you to analyze the cultural impact of having such a non-American/global food event here in Bloomington. Your answer describes the local situation but does not analyze the impact meaningfully.

**Unsatisfactory Work Example:**

This example reflects a Chinese student’s assumption that because s/he was familiar with the tradition of the Lunar festival, s/he did not need to actually answer the questions posed in the prompt and tie what s/he saw to the class discussion.

C103 Spring 2012 Cultural Event Rubric 29/50 F.
| 2 Food in non Amer tradit (20 pt) | Sentences add up to a cohesive, analytical paragraph that explains how dish was/is integral to a specific country, region, and cultural tradition; distinguishes popular vs regional specialty; mentions whether it is served all year or on spec occasions; and whether it is homemade or can only be ordered in restaurants | List of sentences that are analytical but do not necessarily add up to a cohesive whole paragraph. Explains the dish’s role within a culture, and when it is consume. May be a bit more vague about what kind of cuisine it represents—fine dining or homemade, popular dish or a regional specialty. | Sentences are more descriptive than analytical. Discusses tradition, but not food’s role w/in it; May mention pop or regional, but not explain; may mention homemade vs fine dining w/o explanation; may mention spec occasion but not which. | Cursory discussion of dish’s origin and context but may not go into detail about when it’s eaten or how. Impressionistic set of sentences; low on specifics | Brief discussion of food item; perhaps a reference to the country or technique used to make it. Not coherent. |
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Reflection on a Cultural Event Analysis: Lunar New Year

The Mathers Museum of World Cultures, from the name itself, provides a wide array of exhibits that portray the colorful diversity of the world. Visiting the museum would make one appreciate better the differences in every culture. Differences usually separate people, but it is best to accept the differences as something that makes the world more interesting. The exhibits provide visitors a deeper insight and understanding on the origin and evolution of a wide array of cultures from among the inhabited places in the world. Here, no culture is presented as more superior or inferior of the other. This insight can be applied to one's stance regarding food and its role in different cultures. Just as the different appearances of several things, such as houses or clothes, are symbolic to perhaps, a certain ideology, or belief, or culture, the differences in food preferences may also be symbolic of these things.

While the Mathers Museum of World Cultures invades the minds through collections of artifacts and cultural pieces, The Lilly Library collections of books on food and drinks provide intellectual stimuli to an individual, creating a curiosity that will help open the mind towards appreciation of the different food tastes of different people in different eras. Food is associated to several events in a person's life. It also helps provide an identity to a certain group or culture. If the saying “we are what we eat” is accurate, then food definitely defines who we are. What is truly interesting in these collections is the showcasing of the origins of different food choices and preferences. It is just quite disappointing though that the collections of books are mostly focused on the American and European dishes, and not a lot on other dishes of other cultures. Still, it provides an understanding on the evolution of dishes in different cultures and places.

A combination of these two insights that were learned from visits in the Mathers Museum of World Cultures and the Lilly Library collections of books on food and drinks gives one an edge in appreciating more the Lunar New Year event held at the Monroe County Public Library last January 21. It provides an understanding that food has a deep importance in the Chinese culture. The first thing that can be observed is the abundance of food choices, marking the Chinese belief that New Year is a time for hoping more prosperity to come. I have observed the Chinese New Year before, but never with this appreciation of every detail that can be observed. Surely, learning about the beauty of the differences in each culture makes one more appreciative instead of discriminating. Despite my still lack of understanding on the symbolic meaning of each food choice, or of each decoration, just the fact that I know that there is a culturally embedded meaning in each detail makes me realize that they too have a culture that, while very much different from mine, is just as beautiful and meaningful.

You are not answering any of the questions given in the assignment prompt. While it is OK to tie in your visits to the Lilly Library and the Museum, you need to analyze the non-American food event that you attended. It is not clear which event you attended and what kind of food you are there.