

Bella Jacoby

13 October 2016

WRIT5 Section 28

Project 2 Revision Outline

Organization

- Re-arrange paragraphs to create a more intuitive flow of ideas
- more clearly separate and sequence methods, lenses, main ideas, examples, discussion

Content

- make purpose of **background** in beginning of methods section clearer
- Add more discussion after my results section (still need to work on)

Syntax/Sentence Structure

- eliminate use of I where possible
- eliminate use of some contractions
- more formal writing in some areas
- simplify long or dense sentences
- break up long sentences into multiple sentences

Flow of Ideas

- constantly tie new ideas back to thesis [difference in between “universal” localism and “true” localism]
- restate ideas
- re-organize some areas

Questions for conference:

- Should I try to more clearly state my motive in the beginning of my paper? Is it too much already?
- Is the information in my methods section relevant?
- Do I have enough sources for the information that I’m trying to articulate?
- Am I focusing too much on my argument and not enough on answering my research question?
- How are the section titles?

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:05 AM
Comment [1]: A lot of great goals here!

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:21 AM
Comment [2]: You will need an Introduction, a Methods, a Results, and a Discussion; you can subtitle those sections, but ensure those 4 are the 4 big sections

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13 October 2016

WRIT5 Section 28

Project 2 Workshop Draft

Urban Agriculture and Localism in Cleveland, OH

Abstract: I aim to discuss the ways in which local agriculture differs in an urban setting, and find out how it affects social dynamics within a city, particularly Cleveland, Ohio. I look at different examples of urban farming initiatives in the city and distinguished the varying goals of these organizations and their respective methods of operation. The urban farming movement in Cleveland seems to be populated by operations that hold true local motivations (involving increased unity and sustainability), and farms that used the idea of urban/local agriculture for a universal agenda. The danger of this universalization of a local movement is that it takes away the independence given back to communities through local food production. To avoid this distraction, a renewed focus on the true goals of urban agriculture is necessary.

Politics of Scale in Local Food Movements

In my research, I started out trying to answer a simple yet broad question: How do Urban Gardens/Farms affect social dynamics within the city of Cleveland? The urban farming movement has taken root throughout the United States and gained popularity in the past decade or so. In particular, cities throughout the Rust Belt have recently become known for a blooming urban agriculture movement. This region, which stretches from Pittsburgh to the Great Lakes and includes many areas in the Northeast and Midwest, is characterized by deterioration and urban decay. Following industrial booms and influxes in migration, these cities experienced rapid economic

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:07 AM

Comment [3]: OK. This is a pretty successful abstract.

To make it seem more IMRDish, you could re-organize it:

1. Shared context about your case
2. Case level question
3. Summary of methods (how you tried to answer the question) in 1 sentence or even in a clause with #4
4. Thesis claim (case-level conclusion)
5. Summary of broader significance

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:08 AM

Comment [4]: You likely want to start with shared context before asking your question.

collapse and fell into disrepair. In recent years, the urban agriculture movement has grown out of a desire to re-claim the city and create prosperity again. Cleveland, OH is a city typical of the Rust Belt's description, and has been one of the leaders in urban agriculture over the last decades. (Fiskio, Scott, Shammin 18) Many local urban gardens and farms have been successful in bringing a new sustainability and unity to their communities, but individual operations within the urban farming movement vary greatly in their intents. In addition to its core goals, the idea of local agriculture in urban settings has become chic and stylish, as well as evangelistic in many cases. The ability of urban places to network and gain wide-scale attention has led to a fetishizing of local farming within these spheres. This discovery led me to another, much broader question: can local *movements* truly be local? Does the universal nature of a movement negate its ability to focus on small-scale issues? In particular, I've found that the national attention gained by the urban farming movement tends to obscure and hinder one of its true goals - that of creating strong, sustainable and independent communities in an increasingly dependent world. To re-focus on the core intentions of local agriculture and localism in general, we must learn to distinguish between wide-scale "local" movements and truly community-driven and oriented "local" movements.

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:09 AM

Comment [5]: A new paragraph here? You're executing a shift from very broad context to the case.

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:10 AM

Comment [6]: Are these folks responsible for the ideas of just the preceding sentence or the whole opening context?

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:11 AM

Comment [7]: OK;

I think you are in promising territory here. But I also think you're falling a bit short of the IMRD goals in a few ways:

- There's not enough clarity about the distinction between your case-level question and your broader question
- There's too much in the way of claims here. Remember that your goal is to make a thesis-last document.

Another way to structure this:

1. Question/problem with the case: Does the food movement in Cleveland create the kind of community it promises?
2. Very brief summary of your method for investigating:
3. A promise that there will be a broader significant (with a hint about the kind of significance it will be)

Urban Agriculture: A History

The idea of local agriculture is, in reality, a very old one. Centuries ago, food was almost universally grown and consumed within the same region. However, with the advent of long-distance transportation, humans began to be exposed to foods different from the ones that could grow in their own areas. These new and exotic foods were a commodity, and international trade blossomed with this prospect. In the U.S., the past several centuries have seen a boom in large-scale and commercial agriculture because of rapidly increasing populations and uneven demographic distribution. Certain areas are more suited to agriculture, where other areas, i.e. urban areas, are much harder to grow crops in. The huge size of the United States, combined with its Capitalist economy, has allowed large corporations to take over much of the food market. Family farms simply can't compete financially and volumetrically with these large businesses. Because of this, produce and food are now transported miles from where they are grown before they are even sold. Problems associated with this are economic, social, and environmental, but the issue comes down to a simple idea. Access to food means security of life, and in a city especially there is no food without money. So when a locality can't produce its own food, it loses its independence.

Urban farming is often seen as a way to bring healthy food back to areas that have become "food deserts", in which access to fresh food is limited or nonexistent. (Ott) However, the urban farms and gardens have been proven to provide more than just nutrition and health benefits. In fact, research has shown that the benefits most

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:14 AM

Comment [8]: A few questions about this:

- Source?
- You are, I think, trying to explain why localist urban farming might be appealing, right? If that's your goal, try to set that up in a topic sentence.
- Are there multiple ideas here?
 - Urban farming responds to the increasing reach of megafarms, which threatens the environment and may harm local business
 - Food is especially important to local communities. It is a localist issue.

important to citizens are the cultural values and coherence that they create within communities. (Ott 20) Each community can have its own reason for wanting these spaces – whether it be to remember the value of hard work, to get outside, to connect with neighbors, or simply to create access to healthy food. It seems that what these centers of urban agriculture create is a sense of self-sufficiency and coherence within communities, and ultimately a sense of strength and dignity. When people can feed themselves, they suddenly depend less on the permission of the world around them, and suddenly feel a bit more deserving of their own life.

The Politics of Local Food in Cleveland

Within Cleveland, many different neighborhoods exist – each with their own history and some much more independent than others. In particular, many black and minority-populated neighborhoods have been neglected and allowed to deteriorate in infrastructure since their economic collapse. (Fiskio 27) Fires in the '60s and '70s cleared many districts and allowed for the formation of an “urban palimpsest”, a term from Andreas Huyssen’s *Present Pasts*. It describes the idea of a landscape characterized by new buildings and infrastructures built over old ones. The term stems from a word that describes a page that has been erased and written over. In an urban context, this palimpsest involves the erasure of the history of a certain area. (24) Neighborhoods and communities who have had their history “written over” have created urban farms and gardens to reclaim the landscape and create something that can, in essence, grow from the ashes. This reclamation through urban agriculture is an example of a way that local

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:17 AM

Comment [9]: OK; this seems to align with the end of the paragraph above.

I'm not yet certain I see the purpose of this section. It kind of reads like the sort of thing that belongs in an introduction.

Yet perhaps it is important. If it is, this spot might be a good place for it.

agriculture can serve its community directly. In looking for examples of urban farms in Cleveland, I looked for this type of focus on regional identity as a marker of true local intentions. Groups which focused on producing food purely for the purpose of feeding their own people seemed to have received more positive feedback from their communities.

In the evaluation of urban agriculture's impact on social dynamics in Cleveland, an understanding of the city's relationship to the movement was essential. I searched for legal policies regarding urban farming and gardening, and found an ordinance that outlined the basic terms involved in the movement, as well as the regulations and restrictions put in place. In 2007, the "Urban Garden District" was established as part of the Zoning Code to regulate spaces for urban agriculture. The definitions that surround the movement in Cleveland provide information on how the citizens and government of the city view urban agriculture. While these spaces were created so that urban agriculture could become more officially integrated into the city, many physical limitations and conceptual barriers are still in place. Signs may not exceed certain dimensions, buildings must stay within height boundaries, and fences can only be constructed out of certain material. ("Urban Agriculture Policies") While the city has attempted in some ways to get on board with the local farming movement, the fact that these regulations have to exist is an example of the inconsistency between local and more universal intentions. The intentions of the larger city to regulate and homogenize each of these smaller urban farming movements shows a disregard for the goal of local independence, suggesting that a city by definition is too big to really serve

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:20 AM

Comment [10]: Try to avoid getting to results here.

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:22 AM

Comment [11]: This sounds very results-ish. You're making a specific claim about Cleveland right?

specific localities.

And yet, a larger-scale urban farming *movement* still exists. In Cleveland and nation-wide, urban agriculture has become a chic and innovative trend among restaurants and online businesses. This wide-scale attention on local husbandry has been positive in that it has spread the movement among local initiatives, but it has also created a “local” urban farming movement more geared towards cutting-edge technology, upscale dining, and engineering experiments than actually localizing the production of food. To determine the difference between this movement and what I’m calling a “truly local” urban farming movement, I searched for various primary and scholarly sources to provide evidence and discussion to answer my original question about how urban farming influences social divisions within Cleveland, Ohio.

Case-Level Findings Reveal a “Universal” Localism

A study of existing operations involving the urban agriculture movement in Cleveland can shed light on the difference between this true localism and the more universal localism. The Urban Farmer Steakhouse, located on East 6th Street in downtown Cleveland, aims to “redefine the modern Cleveland steakhouse.” It is an upscale restaurant with an emphasis on local sourcing and authenticity of ingredients. Its website displays claims of building close relationships with the farms, ranches, and fisheries that they partner with. However, none of the head staff are from the area, and its modern atmosphere caters to a broad audience. On their “about” page, they describe their atmosphere as a “comfortable, stylish ambiance that is at once a tribute to the

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:23 AM

Comment [12]: This sounds like a topic sentence.

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:24 AM

Comment [13]: This also sounds like results

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:24 AM

Comment [14]: You can include a section that’s analogous to the “materials” portion of the M in IMRD, but this materials section should be, essentially, an argument that you have enough information to answer the question you set up in the introduction.

We don’t need you to narrate your process because we don’t really want to reproduce your procedures.

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:25 AM

Comment [15]: This sounds like a discussion-level idea. If it’s broader than the case, it’s discussion.

quaintness of a restored farmhouse and the urbane boldness of mid-20th century modernism.” At once, this description exploits the idea of local agriculture for a new, glamorous style that meshes new age trends with a romanticized version of the past. In an August 2016 blog post from the Urban Farmer Steakhouse website titled “paying homage to local farms,” executive chef Vishnu Nath describes his experience volunteering at an urban farm that provides food for the steakhouse. “It is a privileged opportunity for us to pay homage to the local farms and how hard they work,” he says, continuing, “I thought farming would be easy, trust me it is not!” (“Urban Farmer Steakhouse”) It’s evident through these exchanges and descriptions that the restaurant operates on a vastly different level than the farms which support it. No matter how much they claim to be part of a “local” movement, a popular East 6th Street does not exist within any of the immediate communities of these local farms. This disconnect between the communities in which this food is grown and where it is consumed is an integral part of its universal intent.

Another operation involved with the urban agriculture movement in Cleveland is the Ohio City Farm, a 6-acre urban farm on Market Street in Ohio City, right outside downtown Cleveland. Its goal is to “incubate entrepreneurial farm businesses and support workforce development programs.” It also has initiatives to provide health and lifestyle outreach to underserved communities. (“Ohio City Farm”) The ideas behind this operation are decidedly widespread throughout the city of Cleveland. In addition, the goals of the Ohio City Farm involve bringing change to certain areas of the city and using their own organization to spur the development of other businesses and

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:26 AM

Comment [16]: I’m struggling to find the case-level claim in this paragraph.

I think this might be two?

1. Localist rhetoric (or localist values) are common features of the restaurant scene in Cleveland
2. But these localist values perhaps don’t reveal the disconnect between restaurants’ goals and domain and the goals and domain of the farms that supply them?

neighborhoods. However, there is much evidence that outreach work that moves into other communities or neighborhoods entirely is not effective, especially within the context of local food. As Ott argues in "Making Sense of Urban Gardens", in order for urban farms and gardens to positively impact local communities, the citizens themselves must operate and take control of the farm. Outreach, "armies of researchers," and missionary tactics just end up "delineating social norms and imposing the values of the middle class." (Ott 18, Fiskio 20) Here, there is yet again a disconnect between the social spheres in which the food is produced and consumed.

Examples of Truly Local Urban Agriculture

Successful local urban farming movements aim to create sustainability and independence within communities, and create unity and dignity within those same communities. These movements ultimately serve the people that they involve – and they do this by involving the people they serve. The farms I looked at that seemed to be doing this were places like the Rid-All Green Partnership and the BioCellar on Hough Avenue. What stands out about these organizations is that they employ people from their own neighborhoods, and they sell to the same community. The BioCellar employs formerly incarcerated adults and youth in the community to provide empowerment and reclaim conceptual dignity. The Rid-All Green Partnership is an urban farming initiative in the Kinsman neighborhood "offers opportunities for individuals and groups to get in touch with the land." (RidAll Green Partnership) It's run by three childhood friends who grew up in a nearby Cleveland neighborhood. Its goal is simple.

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 10:29 AM

Comment [17]: Ok. again, I think this paragraph has 2 elements:

1. The outreach organization represents a broad initiative to advance localist urban farming throughout the city
2. But we have good reason to believe this initiative is inadequately localist?

I'm not certain I see the evidence that the organization is disconnected. Ott shows you what it might look like for an outreach effort to fail, but you don't give us any evidence about the actual organization.

Stated by founder Keymah Durden III, they ultimately aim to create “access to holistic, nutritional food for the development of the communities around the world”. (RidAll Green Partnership) They’ve started with their own community in Cleveland, OH and while their vision is larger in scale, it still involves each locality maintaining individual purpose. There is no complicated, new age-fantasy – only the desire to provide better access to good food and to strengthen communities through this. The farm serves its community first, not actively attempting to branch out or gain popularity among other neighborhoods. Crucially, the spaces and communities in which the food is produced and consumed are the same or at least overlap. Going back to the true goal of localism, this brings back some power to the local community and away from the large-scale consumer market.

In conclusion, although in many ways the urban agriculture movement has provided meaningful ways for communities to come together and become more sustainable and self-sufficient, the universalized facet of local/urban farming is becoming a distracting fad. A renewed focus on the true goals of local agriculture within urban settings is necessary to recognize the benefits possible from these movements when applied on local scales by each community. The possibility of creating renewed self-sustainability and independence in an increasingly dependent world is crucial for the wellbeing of these communities and, really, of everyone. Urban agriculture is ultimately a statement that people living in cities can take care of themselves, and that in reality they aren’t actually dependent on big corporations and mainstream society.

Nicholas Van Kley 10/21/2016 11:35 AM

Comment [18]: These sound like case-level claims, no? With evidence?

If that’s right, this belongs in results.

