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Final Paper Abstract

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How is the way that we utilize our natural resources affected by what we think is moral or immoral? Also, what does this tell us about where our priorities lay as humans? Many people know that the way we use the resources on our planet is not ideal, but nothing major is ever done about this. My paper will use the texts *Polemic: Industrial Tourism and the National Parks*, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, and, *Food Inc.* to investigate how we view the morality of the way we use our resources and how it compares to other things such as job creation.

In *Polemic*, a road is going to be constructed through the middle of a national park. The main character in the book whole-heartedly opposed this plan. He was strongly in favor of the strict no motor vehicles regulation at the time. In class we discussed both the merits and the downfalls of this plan. It is hard to decide which decision is the right decision, and which one is wrong. I think most people can agree that it would be good and moral if they were to preserve the wilderness and not build the road. However, some would say that it is a greater moral good for the road to be built. That way more people have access to the wonders that nature has given us.

In the *Omnivore's Dilemma*, Pollan talks about how we humans learned to cook our food and therefore expanded even further the amount of foods that we can consume. Nobody would argue that this skill that was developed by early man is immoral. It was a skill developed and it helped the species feed itself more effectively. The rise of genetically modified organisms or GMOs has created a lot of controversy. There is no doubting the fact that GMOs have allowed yields to increase, but some

question the cost of those increased yields. I will discuss the arguments of which one is morally greater, not using GMOs, or being able to feed more people. I will also use examples from *Food Inc.* to expand the argument.