

Common Read Essay Question
Prepared for the ISEM101 Integrated Seminars

Common Read 2013-14. *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit* by Barry Estabrook. Andrew McMeel Publishing, 2011.

Select **one of the central themes** in *Tomatoland*, i.e., the challenges faced by migrant workers, by tomato producers or by organic farming, or the challenges of scientific horticultural research, of migrant worker advocacy or of agribusiness advocacy. It should be a theme you have the **least** personal experience with or knowledge about. Then reword that theme into a **question** that reflects a challenge associated with that theme, e.g., as a horticultural researcher, how do we invent a nutritional and trusty tomato, that is economically profitable? Or for example, how do I provide for the health and well-being of my migrant family working in the tomato fields of south Florida? Then create a **plan** or strategy that describes how you will go about answering your question.

Write an essay in which you: **1) Identify** the challenge you are addressing, restated as a question, and briefly explain the **significance** and implications of that question; **2) Provide** a **plan** or strategy that brings together **multiple** approaches, perspectives, and/or academic disciplines to address the question; **3) Locate** and use **outside sources** (separate from *Tomatoland*) to support or add value to the main points you bring up in your essay. Cite your sources at the end of the essay in a standard reference citation format and include one sentence with each citation stating why you chose that source; and **4) Reflect** on how you, as a first-year college student with the experiences of a young adult, are now **personally** affected by an understanding of the challenges encountered by migrant workers in the tomato fields of south Florida.

Your essay should be a minimum of **1,100 words**, but not more than **1,250 words**, double-spaced, 12-point font, using proper formatting and citing your sources as described above. Make your essay as compelling as possible, utilizing all writing techniques at your disposal to effectively communicate your strategy to your audience of readers.

The essay is due by **4:00 p.m. on February 4th**. Submit your essay in a Word (.docx) file as an attachment in an e-mail to me, Rodney Frey rfrey@uidaho.edu.