**“Change of Heart” Pre-Reading Questions**

Discuss the following questions with your group and have one person write down your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

Note: Do not read the article yet. You do not have to in order to answer these questions.

1. What does it mean to have “a change of heart”?
2. What are some common ideas or feelings people have about animals?
3. What kinds of experiences might cause someone to change his or her ideas or feelings about animals?
4. What are some groups of people who have strong feelings about how animals are treated? What do you know about them? What do they usually believe?
5. What is a vegetarian or a vegan? Do you know anyone who is a vegetarian? What does he or she think about eating animals? (Most students are familiar with these practices.)
6. What do you know about the author? Do you think he might be a vegetarian?
7. Read the first sentence of the article. It mentions breakthroughs in biotechnology and nanotechnology. Do you think this article is about those things? Why or why not?
8. This article appeared in a newspaper. What does that mean about the audience? Is this an article for scientists?
9. What do you think is the purpose of this article? Does the writer want readers to change their minds about something?
10. Will the article be negative or positive in relation to the topic? Why?
11. What argument about the topic might it present? What makes you think so?
12. Turn the title into a question (or questions) to answer after you have read the text.

**Post-reading Questions**

After reading the article together as a group, discuss the following questions and have one group member write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Which predictions turned out to be true?
2. What surprised you?
3. What does Rifkin want readers to believe?
4. What are some of the things people believe humans can do that animals cannot? How does Rifkin challenge those beliefs?
5. What authorities does Rifkin use to support his case?
6. What action does Rifkin want readers to take?

**Post-reading Questions**

After reading the article together as a group, discuss the following questions and have one group member write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

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**Considering the Structure: Descriptive Outlining**

Now that you have read and discussed the content of the Rifkin essay, you are ready to begin analyzing its organizational structure.

**First, divide the text into sections:**

1. Draw a line across the page where the introduction ends. Is the line after the first paragraph, or are there more introductory paragraphs?
2. Divide the body of the essay into sections on the basis of the topics addressed.
3. Draw a line where the conclusion begins. Is it the last paragraph, or does it begin before that?
4. Number each of your sections

**You are now ready to begin the descriptions of your outlining:**

In your notebook, write brief statements describing the rhetorical function and content of each section you created. Remember to label each statement with its corresponding number for that section (You did this in step 4). Consider these two questions when writing your statements:

1. What does the section do for the reader? What is the writer trying to accomplish?
2. What does the section say? What is the content?

**After completing the tasks above, answer these questions about the article’s organizational structure (directly after your descriptive outline):**

1. Which section is the most developed?
2. Which section is the least developed? Does it need more development?
3. Which section is the most persuasive? The least?
4. From your work charting the text, what do you think is the essay’s main argument? Is it explicit, or is it implicit?