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AP Pizza History

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Pizza:

An Argument for Its Awesomeness

“If I couldn't have pizza, I would destroy America and become a communist!” is a very famous quote by America’s first president, George Washington. Any intelligent human being would have to agree that pizza is awesome because it is cheap, healthy and convenient. In fact, pizza has been the most popular food since the birth of humanity as many researchers have recorded cave drawings that show pre-historic men and women placing dough on hot rocks and then squeezing tomatoes over the hot dough and topping it with vegetables. Today, debates ring out across our country such as “Which is better, Chicago or New York style?” and “Is stuffed crust the best pizza?” but one thing is sure, pizza is awesome. One of the best aspects of pizza is its price.

Pizza is a food that everyone can enjoy, mainly because it is very affordable. Data from pizzahut.com shows that a large pizza is now only ten dollars and a medium is only eight dollars (pizzahut.com). A recent taste test from the New York Times, found that more Americans find Pizza Hut pizza to be the best tasting pizza in America (Jones, 4). With the best pizza in America only being a few dollars per serving, pizza is clearly awesome because its price makes it available to everyone. Also, Little Caesars, “America’s best deal” offers pizzas for only five dollars each (Watkins, 45). So, the most awesome food is available to most Americans thanks to its reasonable pricing, and, its awesomeness is also due to its health value.

The fact that pizza is a great health food is something that would make most people understand that it is awesome. Pizza encompasses all of the four food groups (FDA.gov). It has fruits and vegetables in the sauce and toppings, grain in the dough, dairy in the cheese and meat in the toppings. It truly is the super-meal! Furthermore pizza is baked not fried, which allows for less fat to enter the dough. The international food council wrote in their quarterly journal that, “Pizza is healthier than doughnuts because doughnuts are deep fried and covered in glaze” (Seinfeld, 1232). Therefore, pizza is inexpensive and healthy, but, in addition to that, it is also convenient.

Most have viewed commercials that brag about having pizza to your door in less than thirty minutes or it is free. What other products do Americans have with such guarantees? Pizza is the most awesome food because it is very convenient. There is a plethora of options for those who crave pizza, they can stop by Little Caesars and pick up a large one topping that is hot and ready at any time, or they can call in a made-to-order pie that they can pick up at their convenience or have delivered to their door for free (littlecaesars.com). Try having a Big Mac delivered to the front door, it won't happen. Additionally, in Mount Vernon, according to the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Report, citizens have the choice of leading pizza chains, Godfather's and Pizza Hut as well as local juggernaut, Shakers Pizza (Mount Vernon 12). All of these locations offer pick up and delivery services for the entire city limits. It is hard to argue that pizza is awesome, but pizza, like any decent and morally good thing, has its list of detractors.

Groups such as the National Ugly-People Council and the Stupid Americans for Stupidness Association have attacked pizza for years. The NUPC was quoted in the *Mount Vernon Signal* as saying that pizza is the worst food ever (Jones, 12) and Craig Geronimo,

President of the SASA wrote a book called Pizza: Why you are Doing it Wrong where he railed against the pizza industry for making Italian Americans look foolish with their depictions of them in commercials and on pizza boxes. “All Italian Americans aren’t just fat chefs with funny mustaches”, wrote Geronimo (Geronimo, 12). While many restaurants do use stereotypes to promote their foods such as the Taco Bell Chihuahua and the David Archeletta look-alike who sings the Good Mood Food songs for Arby’s, many are negative stereotypes. The stereotypes used by pizza places are generally positive, depicting jolly, family scenes, which bring warmth to the heart.

Another criticism of the pizza industry is the use of unrecyclable cardboard boxes for their pizzas. The Environmental Protection Agency reported that 100 percent of pizza boxes cannot be recycled because they touch food (EPA, 44). The pizza industry, though has begun to work to reduce this inevitable fact by creating pizza boxes that use less cardboard. In the, book Pizza: 2011, author John Boehner notes that Pizza Hut has already introduced boxes that use 100 percent recycled paper and twenty percent less paper than their older boxes. He also stated that other companies plan on following suit.

Is pizza perfect? No. Is pizza awesome? Definitely. It is awesome because it is cheap, healthy and convenient. If Americans have a meal that is generally under three dollars a serving that has a full serving of all four food groups and is delivered to your door in thirty minutes or less, what more do we have to ask for? Opening up a hot box of fresh pizza is one of life’s great pleasures and should not be spoiled by socialists and capitalists arguing for recycling rights and ancient stereotypes. Pizza is something that has stayed with humanity through the annals of history and will be here until the end of time. After the nuclear holocaust there will only be cockroaches, Twinkies and pizza.

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