Summary

In the article, “Meatless Like Me” the author Taylor Clark attempts to increase brotherly understanding of vegetarianism. He begins by sharing a personal experience of the first time he, as he stated it, let slip that he was a herbivore. He goes on to talk about the different reactions that vegetarians get after admitting they are vegetarians. People look at them as though they are completely different, but Clark explains that though they might eat a little bit different they still are normal people.

Clark speaks about how vegetarians still crave things like bacon and other meats. He also admits that after being a vegetarian for a few years he himself has lost a taste for a lot of different meats. With that he also states that while vegetarians sometimes crave meat they don’t always like tofu, especially from select restaurants. Clark goes on to say that restaurants need to do a better job accommodating vegetarians. He says that most times restaurants make food that tastes like, “a flavorless hockey puck... thrown in the microwave.”

He closes by saying that not all vegetarians judge meat eaters. They understand where they are coming from. Clark also asks all omnivores to not try and convince vegetarians that vegetarianism is wrong. Vegetarians are not so much different than meat eaters. Over all Clark just wants them to understand where he is coming from.

Analysis

In his article Clark uses a few rhetorical strategies to help persuade his audience, all meat eaters, to change their views about vegetarians. He uses the ethos appeal by stating that he has been a vegetarian for over a decade, giving him experience on vegetarianism and how people react to
vegetarians. He also uses logos appeals by saying things like, “We know meat tastes good; it’s why there’s... meat substitutes.” By using these appeals he is better able to prove his point that vegetarians are normal people, showing that they have the same cravings and tendencies as meat eaters.

By using stereotypes given to vegetarians, Clark shows how vegetarians can be miss understood. He uses this information in formal and informal manners, giving the article a casual feel, but at the same time making sure to give all the facts needed to prove his claim. Also in using these stereotypes, Clark takes it upon himself to represent vegetarians as a whole, voicing their common concerns and opinions. In strategically using logos and ethos appeals along with his careful wording and common knowledge of vegetarianism, Clark makes a very convincing argument on meat eaters and vegetarians are all equal.

Response

I agree with Clark over all, but I disagree with how he presents his argument. Human beings are subject to their own opinions and it’s not our place to judge. He wants meat eaters to stop stereotyping vegetarians but in doing this he stereotypes meat eaters. There are ways to prove a point without stereotyping all meat eaters. Everyone is different, whether they are a vegetarian or a meat eater. Some meat eaters do make statements like the ones Clark brings up, but there are also many meat eaters that don’t make these statements.

I agree I have met some meat eaters that think vegetarians are off their rockers, so yes they are out there. But I, a meat eater, know that not all of meat eaters act like Clark says. I have had several vegetarian friends and when I first learned that they were vegetarians I did not give the dumfounded expression that says, ‘But you seemed so... normal.’ I believe that anyone that can put aside meat for the rest of their lives has done something very difficult. I know I could never do it, I’ve tried. Let us as human beings in a free country, treat everyone equally no matter what they eat.