

The focus of this paper will be two-fold: to explain the biology of the assigned topic and to expand on its ethical implications. The expansion topics include: politics, religion, economics/money, and culture/society). Each student will be responsible to write his or her own paper including the biology and one of the topics.

You must use your sources wisely as these are expansive topics and you are limited to a five page paper. Take care to focus your words and to concentrate on just your area of “expertise.” You are encouraged to use quotes (parenthetically cited), which are attributed to the speaker/source to strengthen your paper.

You will be using a notecarding process to write this paper. Each notecard is to have one and only one fact or quote on it along with some indication of source (color coded, source citation, clipped corner, etc.) There is no minimum or maximum number of notecards per source. You are encouraged to have the notecards on hand during the Socratic discussion that will culminate this project.

The format for the paper must follow the following rules:

- a. double spaced and typed (no extra space between paragraphs)
- b. font is plain/simple (New Times Roman 12 or Ariel 11)
- c. one inch margins all around
- d. no title page—simple, one line heading on page one only. Example:
Stem Cells and Politics Susan Smith--per.5
- e. the length of the paper should be between 4.5 and 5.5 pages (approx. 1500 words)
- f. the final page (not to be included in the page count) is a bibliography
- g. the paper is expected to follow MLA or AP format
- h. quotes within the text must be parenthetically cited

You will be given two articles on your topic. All students with your topic will be given the same two articles. You must find three additional articles. These must have an author to be considered a valid source. The bibliography must be included with the paper, or the paper will not be accepted. Again, follow a chosen format.

You will have two class periods in the library to gather your sources and to do research for your paper. Deadlines for benchmarks are as follows:

First library day is Wed. April 16

Five references (in bibliography format) due on Tues. April 22

Three sources notecarded due Fri. April 25

Second library day is Mon. April 28

Five sources notecarded due Fri. May 2

Draft of paper is due (ready for peer review) Thur. May 8

Final paper is due: both electronic/hard copy Mon. May 12

No late papers accepted after Thur. May 15

BIOLOGY PORTION

- A. Terminology
5-vocabulary is incorporated, fully explained, and used properly
4-vocabulary is incorporated, either explanation or proper use is lacking
3-vocabulary is incorporated superficially
2-minor errors in vocabulary evident
1-vocabulary is lacking
0-major errors in vocabulary (misleading or erroneous)
- B. Focus
5-clear information, stays on topic
4- adequate clarity, stays on topic
3- 2 some extraneous information included OR information is unfocused, wandering
1-information is vague
0-assigned topic is not covered in paper
- C. Depth
5-topic is covered to give the reader clear understanding
4-adequate detail for general understanding
3-detail is lacking in some areas
2-1 misleading information in topic OR no detail is given
0-erroneous information is given

FOCUS/EXPERTISE PORTION

- A. Focus
5-clear information, stays on topic
4- adequate clarity, stays on topic
3- on topic but superficial detail
2-1 information is unfocused, wandering, information is vague or opinions included
0-assigned topic is not covered in paper
- B. Depth
5-topic is covered to give the reader clear understanding
4-adequate detail for general understanding
3-2 detail is lacking in some areas
1-no detail is given
0-erroneous information is given

*****Take care in your writing with the following:** less vs. fewer, between vs. among, affect vs. effect, dangling prepositions, split infinitives, punctuation inside the quotation marks, blended vs. direct quotes, identifying a person by position or expertise.

Bioethics Research Paper Rubric: Honors Biology Name: _____

On time: 5-on time 3-late 0-not turned in
 _____ 5 sources gathered _____ 3 sources notecarded
 _____ 5 sources notecarded _____ draft
 _____ final paper _____ e-copy

Notecards vs. paper _____ 5-follows directly
 3-some out of order or extras left in stack
 1-sparse effort at writing
 0-no draft turned in

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Works cited 5-5 authored works 3-3 authored works
 4-4 authored works 0-2 authored works
 B. MLA format 5-all references are formatted properly
 4-minor mistakes made
 3-mistakes made are apparent
 1-major mistakes made
 0-MLA format not followed

GENERAL QUALITY

A. Length 5-4.5-5.5 pages
 3-3.5-4.5 or 5.5-6.5
 1-less than 3.5 or more than 6.5
 B. Word usage/quality: _____ (5--3--1)
 C. Errors (spelling, grammar) 10-zero 5-five
 9-one 4-six
 8-two 3-seven
 7-three 2-eight
 6-four 1-nine 0-ten +

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION CONTRIBUTION (0-10) _____ + p.1 _____ + p. 2 _____

Socratic Discussion Purpose and Procedures

The purpose of a Socratic Discussion is to elevate our understanding of, not only the facts, but also of the possibilities and perspectives surrounding the topic of discussion. The participant's role is to contribute facts and research findings, challenge others to discuss and understand them, consider other's contributions, and encourage deeper thought. No one should feel confronted or attacked during a discussion. We can learn to disagree without causing stress or strife to another.

1. Desks will be arranged in two concentric circles. The inner ring will include those participating in the discussion topic. The outer ring will include those who have not read the articles and will not be participating in the discussion.

2. The discussion will be opened by the teacher with a short overview of the topic. From that point on, the teacher will have a very minimal role (for example, to ask a clarifying question or reenergize the conversation).

3. Remember the following inner circle behaviors:

- a. do not raise hands
- b. listen carefully
- c. address one another respectfully and with eye contact
- d. all contributions (even opinions) must be based in facts/research
- e. do not monopolize the discussion (if you find that you are talking more than most, this would be a good time to ask an open question)
- f. remember that well worded, open ended questions are as important as offering facts and research
- g. lulls in the conversation are good times to pose a probing, open ended question
- h. do not interrupt

4. Outer circle students will be given a chance to ask clarifying or probing questions near the end of the discussion. It is important that the outer circle does not offer opinions or get integrally involved in the discussion.

5. Examples of questions that may serve to open up a new line of discussion:

What is the impact of that on...?

Do you agree with the findings?