

# BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ITS SOCIAL IMPACT

## Paper Assignment

For your paper please choose one of the broad areas of technology that we have discussed in class and explore some application of it. The particular application you choose may come from your own ideas, background or experience. Your exploration should include a description of the relevant technology and an examination of the controversial issues surrounding that technology. These issues may be social, economic, philosophical or ethical. This is to be an **argumentative** paper, one in which you take a position regarding the use of that technology; in other words you are to argue for or against its adoption. In your argument you will, of course, have to address the arguments of the opposing side.

### Requirements

1. Your paper should be about 8-10 pages in length. The length is not as important as the quality of presentation.
2. Paper must include:
  - A. Title
  - B. Introduction
    1. Describe the technological application and why you chose it. Tell the reader why you think it is an important one to consider.
    2. Include a **clear, precise thesis statement** and lay out the outline of your argument in your thesis statement/paragraph.
  - C. Main body
    1. Presentation of the factual information of the topic. This should include a description of the science behind the relevant technology.
    2. Compare and contrast the two (or more) viewpoints on the issues. This is where you argue your position and answer the arguments of the opposition. To do this you must clearly state your position, then articulate the counter-argument of the opposition **followed by your rebuttal**. How effectively you do this will determine in large part how persuasive your paper is.

OVER

#### D. Conclusion

1. Here you should draw your final conclusions and make clear your position regarding the application of this technology.

#### E. Literature Cited

1. Your paper must have a complete bibliography of references cited in it. Do not include references not cited in the paper.
2. You must have specific references for all information and arguments contained in your paper. Remember that a paper consisting merely of unsupported opinions is neither persuasive nor is it valid scholarship.
3. You may use web sites as sources of information **ONLY** if the information is associated with an **author's name**. Unattributed information on the web should always be regarded with suspicion. In addition, **no more than 10% of your sources may come from web sites!**
4. You should **use the MLA format** for citing sources in your paper. Do not use footnotes to cite references!

#### 3. Due dates:

approved topic - **Oct. 29**

thesis statement and arguments - **Nov. 12**

final paper - **Nov. 26**

4. Papers will be graded on their originality and depth of understanding. They only need to be technical enough to explain the basics of the issues involved. Accuracy of this information is important. Also, your ability to present a sound argument in your paper will depend on the clarity of presentation.
5. You should begin looking for topics immediately. Please come see me for topic approval and/or assistance as soon as possible.
6. I will accept papers after the due date but I will deduct 5 points a day for each day that the paper is late.