

CURRENT EVENT READING & DISCUSSION BOARD

Discussing science news and issues using an on-line discussion board.

- Purpose:**
- You will become more familiar with the scientific ideas and concepts that are being reported in the media and thereby used to shape the world we live in.
 - You will be able to read an article critically and be able to discuss the issue or facts of that article in a clear manner.
 - You will be able to summarize an article and your thoughts on that topic in clear and concise writing.

- Procedure:**
- You will be provided with an article, which is related to the topics we are studying in class. You must read the article thoroughly and be able to discuss the issues and points of view expressed in the article. Discussion will take place either in class, on-line, or both.
 - You will do your own research on the topic, form an opinion, and submit a written statement to an on-line discussion board (you will receive instructions in class).
 - Your discussion board submission must include a brief summary of your research (including data), your opinion of the topic, and a bibliography citing your research.
 - In addition to your submission, you must also respond thoughtfully and thoroughly to, at least, one other student's submission.
 - The summary must be submitted on-line by the assigned due date. It is your responsibility to make sure your submission was successfully submitted.
 - Accurate spelling and grammar is expected, as well as appropriate discussion board language and etiquette.
 - Due dates and topics will be posted throughout the year.

Rubric: Rubrics will vary according to topic and reading assigned. However, basic grading format is as follows:

- Brief summary of your own research on the topic.
- Your opinion with data to back it up.
- Bibliography of your research in appropriate MLA format (see examples below).
- Your response to another student's submission.

Discussion Board Etiquette:

- When writing responses, please be respectful of others' feelings and opinions. This is an environment where students need to feel comfortable with expressing how they feel about different topics without other students being hurtful or unkind.
- Remember, all of your responses will have your name, the time, and the date attached to it. Your teacher will be monitoring the discussion board.
- Please use appropriate language and be clear about what you are trying to say.

Bibliography: Bibliography should be in the correct format (MLA format). Examples are posted in the classroom and you can pick up a copy from the library. See the following website for a complete list: <http://schools.shorelineschools.org/shorewood/library/index.html>

Print Magazine: Prince, Dinah. "Marriage in the '90's." New York 1 June 1999:30-38.

Print Newspaper: Tucker, Cynthia. "Education Stays on Top of Southerners' Agenda." Atlanta Constitution 21 Mar. 1997: 19A.

Internet Web Page: (This is a departure from the MLA format. Cite as much information as possible.)

Author's Name. "Title of web page", Title of web site. Date published/updated. URL. (Date Accessed)

Dawkins, Richard. "Thoughts on cloning humans", The world of Richard Dawkins web site. Published 2/25/97. <http://www.world-of-dawkins.com/>. (Accessed 12/5/02)