

UNST 133A
Spring 2005
Dr. Marc R. Feldesman

Assignment #1
Three (3) Genetic or Biotechnology Journals

This assignment requires you to choose a **different**** genetic or biotechnology topic for each of three **(3) weekly journals (due dates in the syllabus)**. Suggested topics are below and are deliberately broad and unfocused. You are free to choose a narrower topic that falls under one of these broad topical areas and to focus your journal on that topic. Note that the list of suggested topic areas is the same as the list from which your Assignment #4 (Research paper) should be chosen. (I hope that these journals will make it easier for you to select a topic for your research paper – Assignment #4).

What to do: (1) Pick a general topical area from the list. (2) Within that topic, select a particular area that you want to investigate. (Example: "DNA and the Legal System" has a couple of possible paths. You could look at its role in prosecuting individuals accused of a particular crimes, exonerating individuals potentially wrongly convicted of crimes, look at its role in establishing paternity in cases of contested paternity, you could examine issues of reliability and accuracy of DNA identifications in general, or you could look at the role of the use of DNA in making personal identifications in mass disasters). In other words, each broad category has a significant number of possible smaller issues. **(3) Next, find two articles (3 or more pages each) that discuss the topic you're interested in from two different points of view, read them, and summarize their key points. (4) Finally, write a 3 page (double-spaced, 12-point Times Roman, 1" margins) journal describing the topic you selected and key issues it raises, summarizing the two articles you read, and describing your own concerns/opinions on the subject. (5) Make certain that you reference the articles appropriately in your journal and provide a full citation for each at the end of your journal (APA format only).**

****"Different" means that each journal will cover a different general topic from the list. If you choose "DNA and the Legal System" for your first topic, you may NOT choose it again for any of the remaining 2 journals.**

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Assignment #2

Journal Topics

- 1. DNA and the legal system**
- 2. Somatic cell therapy**
- 3. Germline engineering**
- 4. Human cloning**
- 5. Role of technology in medicine**
- 6. Medical and genetic privacy/discrimination**
- 7. Stem cell research**
- 8. DNA as property**
- 9. The role of technology in genetic and health privacy**
- 10. Assisted reproductive technologies (ART)**
- 11. Genetically modified organisms (GMO, agricultural products)**
- 12. Genetically engineered drugs**
- 13. Genetic therapy**
- 14. Genetic Screening**