

Biology

Activity 16: Write an Opinion Essay

Topic 18: DNA and Heredity

General Instructions:

Use a computer to complete your essay/document.

- Write a “five-part” 250-400 word essay in a single 40-minute session.
- Include an introduction, three key supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors prior to completing work.
- Submit or share your final document with your instructor.

Suggestions and Tips:

1. Read the background and context. Familiarize yourself with the subject area.
2. Select either A or B as the basis for your thesis.
3. Plan the essay prior to writing it.
4. Make the essay organized. Avoid placing multiple points in one paragraph.
5. Use only Times New Roman font 12 with double-spacing to format your document.
6. Discuss only one supporting reason supporting your thesis in each of the body paragraphs.
7. Conclude with a summary.
8. In the summary, rephrase the introduction and thesis. Emphasize key supporting rationale.

Background and Context:

Prior to modern understanding of DNA and heredity, these were philosophers and others that had ideas related to heredity. For example, the most influential early theories of heredity were that of Hippocrates and Aristotle. Hindu scriptures and texts (Charaka Samhita) dating before the 2nd century described ideas related to what we now call heredity. While these earlier ideas differ from modern understanding, they remain relevant as part of the history of heredity science. Perhaps history classes should present this information, but not science classes. Or, perhaps both science and history classes should present the historical information.

Position A: Honeycutt Science should include a review of the historical concepts of heredity, even if they differ from modern understanding.

Position B: Honeycutt Science should focus only on the modern views related to heredity – as these are most relevant to a high school student.