

GMOs “Silent Project” Description

The advancements in the field of biotechnology have allowed scientists to insert genes into food sources so the altered DNA produces new proteins that lead to new characteristics in the plants. This is one example of a genetically modified organism (GMO). By inserting a gene into a particular plant, the resulting protein may make the plants resistant to insects or resistant to a particular herbicide. The farmers’ ability to yield larger crops greatly improves when these alterations are made. Other genetic modifications improve the nutritional quality of food. Several products you buy at the grocery store including corn, beets, canola and soy are probably genetically modified, but you have no way of knowing unless the manufacturer chooses to label the product. Opponents to genetically modified food fear that future studies may uncover health risks linked to ingesting this altered form of DNA. Others suggest that the use of genetically altered plants may result in the overuse of chemicals to control weeds, and ultimately cause adverse environmental conditions. Currently there is not a law that mandates the labeling of genetically modified food products.

Your assignment is to choose a side to argue (for labeling GMOs or against labeling GMOs) and then create a project (choose from the list below) to argue your point of view. You must work with at least one partner to create the project (see details with each project description) but the only way you can communicate is through Diigo and Google Drive! Your web quest, participation and input will all be graded as pieces of your project grade. Good luck and have fun!

Part I – Web Quest

- Complete the DNA Tour Web Quest. Write all answers neatly and in COMPLETE SENTENCES!
- Choose a side.
- Choose: debate, article or brochure (see attached descriptions).

Part II – Research

- Create a Diigo account.
- Find articles to help support your point of view on the labeling of GMOs.
- You must highlight/put sticky notes on at least 5 articles!
- Share your Diigo articles with your partner(s), Ms. Simon & Miss Fontaine

Part III – Project

- Communicate only through Google Drive to create your article, brochure or debate.
- Share your project with your partner, Ms. Simon & Miss Fontaine
- A separate works cited page in MLA format (12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced with the title “Works Cited”).

GMOs “Silent Project”
Timeline

Thursday: Introduction to the GMOs “Silent Project”

Tour of DNA Web Quest

HW: Create a gmail account

Consider your project options. Come to class with a decision about with whom you would like to work and which project/side you are choosing.

Friday: Introduction to Diigo

Research GMOs & the labeling thereof

HW: Finish your research if it wasn't finished in class.

Monday: Introduction to Google Drive

Work on GMOs Project

Tuesday: Work on/Finish GMOs Project

Works Cited (on a separate page, in MLA format)

Silent Debate: GMOs Pros vs. Cons

Requirements:

- 3-4 students per side
- Create a separate document space (In Favor of GMOs Space or Anti-GMOs Space) by clicking Create → New Document. As soon as the document is created, click File → Share and share the document with your partners and us (ksimon@tolland.k12.ct.us and jfontaine@tolland.k12.ct.us). In this space, consult with your debate partners in the document to type your opening statement, arguments, rebuttals and closing statements.
- Create a shared document space (Shared Debate Space Block __) by clicking Create → New Document. As soon as the document is created, click File → Share and share the document with your partners, the opposing side and us (ksimon@tolland.k12.ct.us and jfontaine@tolland.k12.ct.us). In this space those opposing GMO labeling will type in red and those in favor of GMO labeling will type in blue.
- Opening statement for each side: minimum of 5 sentences to a maximum of 10 sentences
- Arguments: minimum of 2 arguments to a maximum of 4 arguments; minimum of 3 sentences to a maximum of 5 sentences per argument
- You must have as many rebuttals as your opponent has arguments (2-4) and your rebuttals must also be a minimum of 3 sentences to a maximum of 5 sentences
- You **MUST** use specific details based on your research
- Closing statement for each side: minimum of 5 sentences to a maximum of 10 sentences
- Be sure to label your Opening Statement, Arguments, Rebuttals, and Closing Statement as such (in bold font).
- Day 1 you should be working in your separate spaces with your partner to determine your statements, arguments and possible rebuttals.
- Day 2 you will work in the shared space to debate!
- Each person must create their own works cited page, separate from the debate -- 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced with the title "Works Cited." If you have questions about format, refer to the Purdue Owl website.

Newspaper Article

Requirements:

- 2 students
- Search “drive.google.com/templates”
- Sign into your Google account
- Click Public Templates then search “Newsletter”
- Choose the “Newsletter – Crisp” template
- Date the article with today’s date
- Use an intriguing title
- Include a summary of bioengineered foods
- Use at least 5 arguments based on your research
- Include at least 2 persuasive pictures to support your article
- Persuade the public!
- Copy in 12 point font
- Include your names, class, block, etc.
- Each person must create their own works cited page, separate from the article -- 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced with the title “Works Cited.” If you have questions about format, refer to the Purdue Owl website.

Brochure

Requirements:

- 2 students
- Search “drive.google.com/templates”
- Sign into your Google account
- Click Public Templates then search “Brochure”
- Choose the “Lyme Disease Brochure” template
- Date the brochure with today’s date
- Include a title page with an interesting title
- Include a page summary of bioengineered foods
- Use at least 5 arguments based on your research
- Include 3 or more persuasive pictures to support your brochure
- Persuade the public!
- The back panel should have your information – your names, class, block, etc.
- Each person must create their own works cited page, separate from the brochure -- 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced with the title “Works Cited.” If you have questions about format, refer to the Purdue Owl website.