

## Genetics Ethics: Opinion Paper

The sequencing of the human genome and other reproductive technologies has opened the floor to several ethical concerns. You have already created a post stating your opinion about a specific ethical concern surrounding genetics. You have also commenting on two other posts.

Based on this experience, you will now be creating a two page opinion paper outlining and defending your chosen opinion. A reminder of the topics can be found below:

### 1) Creating Clones

- This debate centers around cloning humans. Is it right to clone a human? Should we clone humans to harvest organs? Should we clone deceased loved ones (pets or people)? What about to replace a species we caused to go extinct? What line should we not cross when cloning?

### 2) Designer Babies

- Should we be able to select for certain desirable traits? What if it meant advancing the IQ of the human race? Should there be any parameters around the selection process? What ethical implications could this have?

### 3) In Vitro Fertilization and Artificial Insemination

- In vitro fertilization can help infertile couples have babies but is very expensive. Should any portion of this be covered by health care? Should there be a limit on the number of IVF treatments one can obtain? Does a couple have the right to choose to have a child via artificial insemination instead?

### 4) Genetic Testing

- Should you be able to screen for certain genetic disorders while your child is in the womb? What should your options be if you find your child does have a genetic disorder? Would you want to have your child screened?

### 5) Genetic Engineering

- Should we be experimenting with improving the genetic code of other species? What if it means creating drought resistant crops (ending world hunger)? What if it allows us to exterminate disease? What limits should be placed on this technology?

Your opinion paper will be structured as followed:

- Paragraph One
  - This paragraph is used to introduce your topic and provide any necessary background your audience may need to understand your topic. Here you will also be stating your three pieces of evidence you will be using to support your opinion.
- Paragraph Two
  - This paragraph is focused on your first piece of supporting evidence. You may need to do some outside research to be sure you have enough evidence to support your claim.
- Paragraph Three
  - This paragraph is focused on your second piece of supporting evidence. You may need to do some outside research to be sure you have enough evidence to support your claim.

### Paragraph Four

- This paragraph is focused on your last piece of supporting evidence. You may need to do some outside research to be sure you have enough evidence to support your claim.
- Paragraph Five
  - This paragraph you will acknowledge any opposing opinions. Here you can introduce any imposing viewpoints stated by your classmates and provide a rebuttal.
- Paragraph Six
  - This is your conclusion. Restate you opinion and recap major points of evidence.

### Marking Scheme

Topic introduced and opinion clearly stated

0    1    2

Link to genetics

0    1    2

Sufficient supporting evidence

0    1    2    3    4    5    6    7

Opposing viewpoints acknowledged

0    1    2    3

Proper format and information organized logically

0    1    2    3    4

Spelling and grammar

0    1    2

Opinion paper total	/20
Mark for original post in discussion	/10
Mark for two responses in discussion	/10
Total	/40