

US275 Scientific Ethics Scientific Background for Final Project

Scientific Background (Draft due March 25; final due April 8)

Purpose: The Scientific Background assignment is an opportunity for the participants in the debate to learn about the “science” associated with their debate topic. The members of the group should research the topic and then prepare a short explanation that will help the other members of the class understand the topic.

The scientific background should be written similar to a Scientific American article (www.scientificamerican.com). You should assume that the reader of the background (and of the debate) have an interest in science, technology, and ethics but will not have a detailed scientific background. You need to avoid jargon so any special terms should be explained so that the reader is not lost by not knowing the scientific language of the topic.

The ideas surrounding should be presented in a clear and concise manner in a short (3 – 4 paged, double-spaced) explanation of the scientific issues involved in their topic. This information should provide an introduction to the science involved in your topic to your classmates who will be reviewing the debate.

Draft of Scientific Background: The draft of the scientific background will be reviewed and the instructor will provide comments for strengthening the presentation. A more complete and polished draft will allow the instructor to provide better feedback for the assignment. The instructor will place comments into the document and return the attachment to the members of the group by email.

Due: midnight March 25: Should be emailed as an attachment to the course instructor (Hoffmanj@arcadia.edu) and all members of the group.

Grading: 1 point

Final Scientific Background: The group should review the instructor’s comments and complete the necessary revisions. The final document will then be posted as an attachment in the Course Discussion board, under “Final Project-Debate: Your topic” in a message titled “scientific background.”

Due: midnight April 8: Should be posted directly into the discussion thread in the course Blackboard site.

Grading: 4 point

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US275 Scientific Ethics: Scoring Rubric for Debate Scientific Background

Criterion	Novice-Level	Basic –Level	Meets Criteria	Exceeds criteria
Knowledge of the subject matter	Uses basic ideas with minimal understanding (concepts may be used incorrectly).	Uses basic ideas of topic	Applies information	Applies and supports information
Organization and clarity	Unclear in most parts	Clear in some but not all parts	Mostly clear and orderly	Clear and orderly presentation
Supporting facts	Few or no relevant supporting facts	Some relevant facts	Many facts, most of which are relevant	Strong relevant facts
Presentation (Grammar, punctuation, spelling)	Many errors. Weak structure, incomplete sentences and thoughts.	Errors. Sentence structure disrupted with fragments and random thoughts.	Minimal errors. Reasonable sentence structure but weak organization.	Absence of errors. Good sentence structure, well organized.
Resources	May not have completed research and cannot appropriately use information.	Occasional references but lacks thorough understanding of material	Sometimes supports statements with references	Consistently supports statements with references

Other Factors:

1. Timeliness: the overall score on the assignment will be reduced by 3.33% for every 24-hour time period (Monday – Friday) that the assignment is late.