

**Agriculture and Biotechnology Design or Medical Technology
Research Project**
Assigned Wednesday, April 9 or Thursday April 10, 2008
Topic choice due Monday, April 14, 2008
Project due Monday, May 12, 2008
(Presentations will begin on 5/12, all project materials are due 5/12)

Activity Overview:

In this activity, you will research a contemporary problem, issue or technology related to agriculture, biotechnology, or medical technology, prepare a report, and create a display. You will prepare an oral presentation incorporating a PowerPoint presentation.

Your report must be contained in a three-ring binder and consist of the following items:

- Cover page
- Definition of problem, issue or technology
- Report on topic (4-10 pages)
- Printout of PowerPoint (three slides per page)
- List of sources and references

Materials:

- Three-ring binder
- Materials appropriate for a tabletop/poster display (will vary greatly, depending on topic)
- Computer with PowerPoint (or similar) presentation software

Background Information:

Selection: Before selecting the theme for your project, use brainstorming techniques to develop a list of possible themes. Some contemporary topics include:

Agriculture and Biotechnology Design

- Waste management
- DNA testing
- Soil conservation techniques
- Human Genome Project
- Genetically modified food
- Cloning
- Aquaculture
- Food production techniques
- Irradiation

Medical Technology

- US healthcare system
- Minimally invasive surgery
- Home health testing
- Exercise
- Immunizations
- Diagnostic equipment
- Prescription medications
- Prevention programs and techniques

Research – Use a variety of sources to research your theme. Do not rely solely on information you find on the Internet. Use books and periodicals available at your local library. Research the historical developments of the topic. Did an individual develop the technology, or was the technology developed by a corporation? What were some previous technologies that allowed this to become a reality? How was the technology received by the public, and was the response expected?

PowerPoint presentation – When developing your PowerPoint presentation, consider the following design guidelines.

- Develop a general slide design and use it for all your slides.
- Keep the design simple – do not use more than two type fonts. Select type fonts that are easy to read. Be sure that the type size is large enough to be seen from the rear of the room in which you will be presenting.
- Include a title on each slide.
- Do not attempt to squeeze an abundance of information on a single slide – create multiple slides instead.

Paper – use MLA Research Paper standards <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

Guidelines:

- Research should focus on any cultural, social, economic or political impacts. Both opportunities and risks should be addressed.
- The display can be no larger than 18” deep x 3’ wide x 3’ high.
- If a source of electricity is desired, only dry cells or photovoltaic cells can be used.
- The oral presentation can be up to 10 minutes in length.

Evaluation Criteria

Your project will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Content and accuracy of report – one test grade
- Attractiveness and creativeness of display – one test grade
- Communication skills and presentation design of oral presentation – one test grade