Hunger Games Debate Task Cards

**1. D.I.Y. Biologists**

Research the [“do-it-yourself” biology movement](http://diybio.org/). Create a presentation that describes the movement, addresses concerns about the [safety](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/06/health/amateur-biologists-are-new-fear-in-making-a-mutant-flu-virus.html) of D.I.Y. biology and discusses whether this type of activity should be [regulated](http://www.dcbar.org/for_lawyers/resources/publications/washington_lawyer/may_2012/DIY_scientist.cfm). Be prepared to talk about whether increased accessibility to the tools of biotechnology presents any biosecurity risks. You will present this information to the mock National Scientific Advisory Board for Biosecurity.

*Resources*:

Provided Articles

[http://diybio.org](http://www.diybio.org)

http://bioethics.gov/node/750

**2. Scientists Who Support the Publication of Research That May Make It Easier for the Avian Flu Virus to Spread Among Mammals**

Create a presentation that will convince the board of the importance of a better understanding of how the avian flu virus works, and present the [evidence](http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn9941-instant-expert-astrobiology.html) for it. Explain why some scientists believe that in the interests of public safety, this research needs to proceed and be made [publicly available](http://articles.cnn.com/2012-05-12/us/us_journal-avian-flu_1_avian-flu-virus-national-scientific-advisory-board-erasmus-medical-center?_s=PM:US).

*Resources:*

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>

http://goo.gl/vgLmo4

**3. Researchers Opposed to This Research and Its Publication**

Create a presentation to convince the board that research that alters the avian flu virus in a way that makes it contagious to mammals should be limited. Explain how avian flu in its unaltered form can be transmitted to mammals from birds. Explain why scientists involved in the research [voluntarily stopped their work](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/21/science/scientists-to-pause-research-on-deadly-strain-of-bird-flu.html) last winter.

Resources:

<http://goo.gl/no76N0>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>

**4. Members of the National Scientific Advisory Board for Biosecurity**

Explore the arguments for and against research into avian flu contagion. In addition, students should identify arguments both for and against [limiting or regulating](http://www.dcbar.org/for_lawyers/resources/publications/washington_lawyer/may_2012/DIY_scientist.cfm) the availability of biotechnology to D.I.Y. researchers. As you research, make a list of questions you will ask the other groups as they present. After the other groups present to you, you will be responsible for endorsing a bill that supports or opposes the publication of D.I.Y. research.

Resources:

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