

WEB QUEST

TOPIC: *Technology*

Introduction



It is the year 2050. Genetically engineered food is very popular with people, because it is available in every shop and much cheaper than organic products.

But at the same time world scientific community is concerned about the possible harmful effects that such kind of food can cause to humans and to the biodiversity of the planet. Leading physicians and scientists publish reports which contain terrible figures about diseases that people suffer after eating genetically modified food in large quantities. But the leaders of the developed countries don't consider them to be scientifically proved. The two countries that leave behind others in production and consumption of genetically

engineered products are the USA and China.

Task



As one of the leading public health service experts in Russia you have been assigned a very serious task by the Ministry of Agriculture in association with the Ministry of health. Your task is to determine and prove whether genetically modified plants and food are really dangerous and harmful for people and nature or it is a myth. You have to provide objective arguments and concerning the effects and consequences that can be caused by growing and eating genetically engineered plants and food. It will help to work out a new conception of Russian agriculture development.

In this web quest you will have to read all the information provided on genetic engineering. After evaluating pros and cons, you have to form your own opinion concerning this problem. Remember to examine both sides of the question. After all you will have to write a recommendation for or against introduction of genetic engineering technologies into Russian agriculture. Don't forget to write a clear thesis statement and to include several pieces of evidence based on the research.

Process

It is time for Russian government to decide whether it will become a member of the developed community using genetic technologies in growing plants of not. Your recommendation will have great influence on Russian leaders. However, before implementing the task you have to do your research. Use the links provided below to find all necessary information concerning the problem.

1. <http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom/focus/2003/gmo7.htm>
2. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/genetic-engineering>
3. <http://www.raw-wisdom.com/genetically-modified-food>
4. <http://www.greens.org/s-r/20/20-01.html>
5. http://www.biotech-weblog.com/50226711/genetically_modified_soy_in_russia.php

After reading the links provided, you will brainstorm for about ten minutes. This technique should help you organize the different thoughts in your head. More about the technique of brainstorming you can read here <http://webquest.sdsu.edu/processguides/brainstorming.html>.

After brainstorming you should decide if you are for or against introduction of genetic engineering technologies into Russian agriculture. Take this time to write your thesis statement.

Now that you have written your thesis, start writing the rough draft. Don't worry about spelling or grammatical errors while doing this. Just concentrate on the content of the information. Take about fifteen minutes to do this.

Next, read the recommendation that you have just written and try to fix the finer points. You should concentrate on paragraph construction, spelling, and grammar. You will have seven minutes to do this.

The recommendation must contain at least to paragraphs with clear statements. You don't have much time, so be quick and exact. Furthermore, keep in mind that a quality statement is more effective than a rambled one.





You are now finished with the activity part of the web quest. You will now evaluate it to determine how well you have followed the instructions. Take your recommendation and click on the evaluation link. Then evaluate your statement as impartially as possible.

Evaluation

CATEGORY	5	4	3	2
Thesis statement	The thesis statement clearly chooses a side.	The thesis does not clearly choose a side.	The thesis statement is not relevant to the topic.	There is no evidence of a thesis statement.
Prior Knowledge	The outside information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes 3 supporting details and/or examples.	The outside information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 2 supporting details and/or examples.	The outside information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1 supporting detail and/or example.	The outside information has little or nothing to do with the main topic. Or no outside information is provided.
Evidence based on reading	Recommendation contains 5 details or examples.	Recommendation contains 3 or 4 details or examples.	Recommendation contains 1 or 2 details or examples.	Recommendation does not include any details and/or examples.
Paragraph Construction	The paragraph includes a thesis, 5 details or examples, and a concluding sentence.	The paragraph only includes two of the three: thesis, 5 details or examples, and a concluding sentence.	The paragraph only includes one of the three: thesis, 5 details or examples, and a concluding sentence.	The paragraph does not include a thesis, 5 details or examples, or a concluding sentence.
Grammar and Spelling	No grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Only contains 1-3 grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	Only contains 4-6 grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Contains 7 or more grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.

Conclusion

The scenario presented in this web quest may seem unrealistic, or even silly. However, the truth of the matter is that unless we start to be careful with the new technologies that deal with genes, artificial parts of body and so on, we may encounter big problems in future. Some experts believe that we shouldn't interfere in the world order, but scientists obsessed with the idea of life improvement can argue with that.

No doubt, every person should work out his own position to genetic engineering, whether it is ethical, normal and applicable to him and to the

world's community. But it is obvious that no one can decide for us.

By the way what other innovations in modern science can be called unethical? Think for 2 minutes.



Credits