**AP BIOLOGY 2021-22 May 17, 2022**

**Today’s Agenda (Day 159)**

1. Housekeeping Items

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1. Homework Check:

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1. Class Activity:

🡪CONT’D: Debate Project

\*Research the topic “Synthetic Biology”

\*Debate: “Should synthetic biology be used to improve the human quality of life?”

HOMEWORK:

REMINDERS:

* Debate **🡪 May 19**

**AP BIOLOGY 2021-22 DEBATE PROJECT**

**The AP Biology Debates**

The APES Debates will provide an opportunity to display your skills of persuasion, logical reasoning, research, application of evidence and extemporaneous delivery before an audience of judges. Your team will research and defend the assigned position. Your team will be assigned a proposition and a position to support. The format of the debates is outlined below. If the format is not followed the violating team will forfeit the debate.

**TOPIC: Should synthetic biology be used to improve the human quality of life?**

**Format:**

1. Affirmative: 3 - 5 minute initial arguments (constructive).
2. Negative: 1 minute cross examination.
3. Negative: 3 - 5 minute initial arguments (constructive).
4. Affirmative: 1 minute cross examination.
5. Affirmative: 1 -2 minute rebuttal.
6. Negative: 3 minute rebuttal.
7. Affirmative: 1 minute rebuttal.

\*a maximum of 30 seconds will be allowed between sides and 15 seconds between stages Total time: approximately 20 minutes

**Terms:**

Initial arguments–During initial arguments, each team will present evidence in support of their position on the proposition. Each team should provide all of their evidence at this time, as no new evidence may be presented after the initial arguments.

Cross examination–At this time, a team will ask direct questions of their opponents. Questions can include requests for clarification, references, or any other information related to the evidence presented in initial arguments. Questions may not be related to anything not raised in the opponents’ initial arguments.

Rebuttal–In their rebuttal, each team will have an opportunity to provide evidence which refutes their opponents’ evidence. After the first rebuttal, the teams may also use the rebuttal to resurrect any arguments which were previously refuted.

**Strategy:**

Your team’s goal in the debate is to utilize a preponderance of evidence, logical reasoning, and successful rebuttals of opposing arguments, to overwhelm your opponents. If the audience concludes that your team, and not your opponents’ team, has successfully presented more valid arguments in support of your position while refuting arguments opposing your position, your team will be victorious. This is a competition, and you must be prepared to compete when the debate begins. The same person(s) should not be responsible for initial arguments and cross examination.

**Notes:**

* No new evidence may be introduced after initial arguments.
* Teams may only be cross examined regarding the evidence they introduced in their initial arguments.
* The cross-examining team controls the flow of time during their cross examination.
* The team being cross examined must answer the question they were asked and stop. They can be cut off by the team in control.
* The audience will score the debate objectively, based on the number of arguments a team successfully carries through the debate in support of their position, and the number of their opponents’ arguments they successfully refute.
* The audience must consider any violation of the rules in their scoring of the debate.

**Grades:**

The audience will determine the winning team of each debate. The winning team will receive 50% credit. The second-place team will receive 25% credit. Each team may also earn up to 50% credit for submitting their research notes and all other materials used in preparation for the debates. The second-place team may earn up to 25% credit for writing an essay on another proposition, which will be assigned at the end of the debates.