Transgenic Organisms: A Lesson in Bioethics, Evolution, and Biotechnology

Problem 1: Pests

Biotech solution (Monsanto):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Problem 2: Weeds

Biotech Solution (Monsanto): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Resources to Investigate:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Resource | Bias about GMOs (Pro, Anti, or Neutral) | Notes. (copious, please) |
| VIDEO: Excerpt, *Harvest of Fear*, PBS |  |  |
| VIDEO: Commercial, *RoundUp* *Ready 2 Yield® Soybean,* Monsanto Corporation |  |  |
| VIDEO INTERVIEW: Vandana Shiva, from the documentary *The Future of Food.* |  |  |
| NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: *Farmers Cope With RoundUp Resistant Weeds*, New York Times |  |  |
| OP/ED ARTICLE: *Occupy Our Food Supply*. Vandana Shiva, for Grist.org |  |  |

TRANSGENIC ORGANISMS WRITING ASSIGNMENT

What: 5 paragraph essay that discusses transgenic crops.

When: Due in class Friday 3/28

**After researching several non-fiction informational texts and videos on genetically modified crops, write a five-paragraph persuasive essay that (1) compares the risks and benefits of the production of GMO food crops, (2) provides an argument for increasing, decreasing, or maintaining the current level of GMO use, and (3) explains the relevant biotechnologies used to produce GMOs. Support your discussion with evidence from the research, including making reference to at least four of the five resources provided.**

Grading: Review the rubric provided, as it explains how your essay will be graded. It identifies seven areas, each of which will be graded on a four-point scale (1-4). Your rubric score will be converted into a numerical grade using the chart below. This assignment will count as a lab/project grade.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rubric Score** | **Grade** | **Description** |
| **28 (all 4s)** | **100** | ADVANCED |
| 27 | 97 |
| 26 | 95 |
| 25 | 93 |
| 24 | 91 | MEETS EXPECTATIONS |
| 23 | 89 |
| 22 | 87 |
| **21 (3 average)** | **85** |
| 20 | 81 |
| 19 | 78 |
| 18 | 74 |
| 17 | 71 | APPROACHES EXPECTATIONS |
| 16 | 67 |
| 15 | 64 |
| **14 (2 average)** | **60** |
| 13 | 59 |
| 12 | 58 |
| 11 | 56 |
| 10 | 55 | NOT YET |
| 9 | 53 |
| 8 | 52 |
| **7 (all 1s)** | **50** |

Additional notes on the “conventions” portion of the rubric: Cite sources directly; you do NOT need to include a reference list or bibliography. Do remember to *italicize* titles. Handwritten essays will receive a two-point penalty in the convention rubric score. Deductions for formatting issues (1” margins, double-spaced, TNR 12-point font) will be 0.5 points each.