INSTRUCTIONS FOR GN 301 PAPER

Total: 80 Points

Read the instructions for both parts of the Paper before choosing a topic. This semester you will be completing a two-part paper. You must choose one topic that can be used for both parts of the paper. In Part A, you are to present the factual and scientific information on your topic. Part B, for the most part, will contain the effects your topic has had or will have on society and possibly you personally.

Some thoughts/suggestions on picking a topic:

1. Any Genetics in Human Affairs topic that for personal or family reasons is of special interest to you.

2. Any topic on the GN 301 current events/Summary Reports bulletin board/wall that interests you.

3. A genetic disease, like Cystic Fibrosis or Alzheimer's. WHAT causes it (dominant, recessive, X-linked, multifactorial inheritance, chromosome abnormality, etc.)? DESCRIBE the phenotype, i.e. the physical and/or mental manifestations, as appropriate.

4. The Human Genome Project: WHAT is it? WHAT are its purposes/goals? WHAT is the status/progress to date on this Project?

5. Gene Therapy/Genetic Engineering in Humans. WHAT is Gene Therapy/Genetic Engineering? WHAT current technology is being used in this field?

6. Others!?!  

Please do not limit yourself to these topics. If you question the appropriateness of your topic, please consult with Dr. McKenzie.

Please indicate on a separate title page: the Paper's title, your name, the course name, number and section, and the date. Also, on the separate title page include the following statement: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment," and sign it.

PART A: 30 Points

Your assignment is to choose a current and relevant genetics topic and research its genetics. For example, for your topic you may wish to include, if appropriate, the mode of inheritance, the genotypes, phenotypes and/or karyotypes involved, the chromosome(s) in which the gene(s) is/are located, the extent environment contributes, the technologies currently being used, etc. You may use information from library resources, articles on the bulletin board, GN 301 classes, GN 301 coursepack, genetics textbooks, videos, interviews, the internet, etc. Part A is intended to enable you to become familiar with the science of your topic. Part A should be 3-4 pages; preferably typed and double spaced. It will be graded on its genetic content and accuracy, the number of current quality references, and its correctness and effectiveness in communicating your information.
PART B: 50 POINTS

Part B is to be more essay-like* in which you continue with your topic from Part A and present its effects on Human Affairs. Within this part of the Paper, feel free to express and support your personal feelings and the opinions of the general public on this topic. You are encouraged to use newspaper articles, bulletin board articles, interviews, the internet and other information from the popular press as support. You must use at least three (3) additional sources not used in Part A. Be sure to incorporate facts from Part A with their consequences on Human Affairs. Part B is to be 5-6 pages; preferably typed and double spaced. It will be graded on effectiveness of blending scientific facts about your topic with their effects on individuals, families and/or society, consistency with Part A, quality of references, and communication of ideas. Prepare one reference page at the end with separate sections for Part A and Part B sources.

Sample questions to answer within Part B of your Paper:

1. WHAT are the individual/family consequences of your topic?
2. HOW does this make you feel personally?
3. WHAT is the realistic future for your topic?
4. WHAT ethical issues does it raise?
5. HOW has the public reacted to this technology/problem?
6. WHAT action, if any, has the public taken?

These are just examples.....other questions/aspects/issues/etc. relating to society and/or Human Affairs instead of/in addition to these may be more appropriate for your topic.

*ESSAY is defined in the American Heritage Dictionary as "a short literary composition on a single subject, presenting the personal views of the author."
APPROXIMATE ASSIGNMENT OF 80 POINTS FOR GN 301 PAPER

Separate Title Page: 4 points
Are paper title, date, name, course name and number, section, honor code quote and signature given on title page?

PART A

Content: 18 points
Part A, the scientific/research part of the Paper, is to be factual, e.g., it needs to include a thorough explanation of the science of the topic, and as appropriate, the genotype, phenotype, genetic/molecular details, the chromosome involved, the current status of research, etc.

References: 5 points
3-5 (preferably more) current references. The majority of your sources should be recent, i.e., from the late 1990s or later; Genetics is a field that changes daily; current sources are essential to a good Genetics in Human Affairs paper. References need to go considerably beyond class notes and textbooks, including some from scientific journals. No encyclopedias! Some of your sources need to be from the internet, and some not from the internet. Citations within the text of Part A are required to support your points and facts; they must be included. An example of how to make a citation is (McKenzie, 2001). List Part A and Part B sources separately in a single reference section at the end of your paper. References should be listed alphabetically by author's last name.

Communication: 3 points - Grammar, spelling, readability, etc.

Assignment/Instructions Followed: 2 points
Is the topic appropriate? Is sufficient detail given; i.e., has the topic been well-researched and presented? Is Part A too long/short (3-4 pages)? Please number the pages.

PART B

Content: 32 points
Part B is to be the more Human Affairs part. It should very briefly summarize what was presented in Part A; most of the paper, however, should be a presentation of the personal, family, societal, economic, ethical, etc, impacts of the topic.

References: 8 points
Additional sources (also from the late 1990s or later) will be needed for Part B. Since Part B is to be more essay-like and is to include personal and public opinion, daily newspapers, popular press magazine articles and interviews are acceptable sources. Some of your sources need to be from the internet, and some not from the internet. Citations within the text of Part B are required to support your points and facts; they must be included. An example of how to make a citation is (McKenzie, 2001). List Part A and Part B sources separately in a single reference section at the end of your paper. References should be listed alphabetically by author's last name.

Communication: 5 points
Grammar, spelling, readability, etc.

Assignment/Instructions Followed: 3 points
Is the topic appropriate? Is sufficient detail given; i.e., have appropriate/relevant questions been adequately addressed? Is Part B too long/short (5-6 pages)? Please number the pages.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. McKenzie