

# Mr. Fatsy's Biology Honors Seminar Focal Questions

Seminar Date: Thursday, 12 May 2016

Honors Discussion Guides: Callie Valenzisi, Ethan Aoki, and William Jenkins

Part One: Preamble – Topic Introduction (5-10 minutes)

1. What is stem cell research?
2. Describe the nature of the debate on stem cell research?
3. Choose a side of the argument and why you favor that side (use evidence, quotes, or share documentation)

Part Two: Forum – Open Discussion and counter-arguments (~40-50 minutes)

1. Discuss the moral argument (if stem cell argument was taken in the preamble), or the stem cell argument (if moral argument was taken in the preamble) and bring to light the other side of the argument to allow both sides equal discussion.
2. Do the positives of stem cell research outweigh any moral issues? **SUPPORT YOUR CLAIM.**

Preamble will be provided by Callie Valenzisi, at which point the discussion will open up to counter-arguments and equalizing topic discussion by Ethan Aoki and William Jenkins.

Preamble must show a solid introduction to stem cell research. This can take the form of a PowerPoint, handouts, or verbal discussion. Remember, this is the opening of the seminar so there must be a solid introduction and stance taken to either side of the debate, for or against stem cell research.

The forum must contain a solid development of the alternative side of the debate, whether supported or not. A comprehensive pro/con discussion to each side must be lobbied in order to bring to light positives and negatives to each side of the debate.

Grades for the preamble will be as follows:

- Description of stem cell research is strong and understood (5 points)
- Reasoning behind favoring the chosen side of the debate (5 points)
- Evidence of research/work submitted (30 points)

Grades for the forum will be as follows:

- Healthy contribution(s) toward the opposite side of the debate than that taken in the preamble.
- Well developed and researched contribution(s) toward concluding the fundamental question of whether stem cell research's positives outweigh the alternative moral argument (10 points).
- Evidence of research/work submitted (30 points).