

Dear AP Biology Students,

Congratulations on your acceptance into the AP Biology program! You will find this course to be exciting and challenging as well as beneficial to your academic career. To prepare for the first week of class, I am asking that you complete two assignments, as described in the following paragraphs.

First, read the listed articles (see reverse side) that discuss the use of plastination in museum exhibits, which is a current and controversial topic in bioethics. After reading these articles, give your initial opinion on the matter. A journal-style response would be appropriate for this. Then visit the “Our Body” website and the “Body Worlds” website, specifically looking at the information under the “Body donation,” “Plastination,” and “Gunther von Hagens” tabs on the second site.

Next, find 2-3 additional, and credible, sources that discuss the bioethical nature of plastination. Using all of the above material to support your explanation and analysis, write a three to five page response that includes your final opinion and addresses the following questions:

- What ethical issues surround the use of living and/or preserved organisms in scientific research and/or for educational purposes?
- What differences exist, if any, with using human specimens versus other animal specimens?
- Is the use of living and/or preserved organisms- and specifically humans- justified for scientific research and/or for educational purposes?

You will present your essay to your classmates and me, which will be followed by a class debate during the first few days of school. The essay and the debate will both be graded. Please type your work using Times New Roman, size 12 font with double spacing, and use proper citations as appropriate. Your essay should be ready to submit on the first day of class, and please include printed copies of your sources. Thoughtfully defend your opinions.

This assignment will well prepare us to visit the “Our Body” exhibit at the Whitaker Center during the second week of school, which is an awesome display of the complexity of life. During the school year, we will investigate this complexity, beginning with the atoms that make up our body, to how our body functions in a myriad of ways. We will study how this complexity evolved and how it is passed on to future generations. Finally, we will examine the complexity of our interactions with other organisms and the physical earth.

The last part of your summer assignment is to read Chapter 1 in your text. This will give you an overview of the topics we will investigate through this course, as well as trigger your memory from ninth grade Biology. There are no homework questions for this chapter. This should be done by the start of the second week of class.

Again, biology is an exciting subject, and I am looking forward to a successful year! Don’t forget to stop by the school to pick up your AP Biology textbook from Ms. Rambeau. We will have brand new texts, so we are not sure when they will arrive. It may be a good idea to call before coming. Feel free to email me (echarles@ycds.org) or call me (#292-5251) with any questions. Enjoy your summer!

Mrs. Charleston

Reading Resource List: These articles can also be accessed by searching “Our Body” in the archives of the Patriot News, <http://www.patriot-news.com/>, for a limited time (let me know if you have any difficulty in opening these!):

- **Is 'Bodies' exhibit science or sideshow? // Whitaker expert sees no problem in display** http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=1212116BB991BB60&p_docnum=8
- **'Body' basics // Anatomical exhibit offers inside views** http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=1212116C43927590&p_docnum=7
- **Profit from cadavers** http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=1212116C01C6BA28&p_docnum=6
- **Whitaker's 'Body' exhibit leaves little to imagination** http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=12126743D23D6348&p_docnum=4
- **Dignified display** http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=121359F50C6EE450&p_docnum=2
- **Tasteful exhibit** http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=12145F0F201C4E70&p_docnum=1

“Our Body” <http://www.ourbodytheuniversewithin.com/>

“Body Worlds” <http://www.bodyworlds.com/en.html>

Assignment Summary: Please type your work using Times New Roman, size 12 font with double spacing, and use proper citations as appropriate.

1. Write an initial response to the above articles and websites.
2. Find and read 2-3 additional, and credible, sources that discuss the bioethical nature of plastination. (Include printed copies of your sources.)
3. Write a 3-5 page response that includes your final opinion and addresses the posed questions, being sure to use all of the above material to support your explanation and analysis. **Due: First day of class**
4. Read Ch. 1 in your text. **Due: Start of the second week of class**