

First Essay

There are several articles uploaded on the class website in the folder “First Paper.” Read at least one of the articles and answer one of the following question in essay form:

1: Over half a million people die from malaria and other mosquito-borne pathogens every year. De Chant and Nelsen point out new biotechnologies (e.g. CRISPR/Cas9 and Cpf1) may make it possible to effectively drive mosquitoes or other species to extinction, a move that [Alphabet \(Google’s restructured parent company\) will be supporting in coming years](#).

Should we genetically engineer mosquitoes to eradicate them or their parasites? Why or why not?

2: Currently, more species are going extinct than at any other time in history of life on Earth with the exception of a handful of mass extinction events. [The Long Now Foundation](#) seeks to enhance biodiversity by using new biotechnologies (e.g. CRISPR/Cas9 and Cpf1) to effectively bring a species back from extinction. Sherkow and Greeley point out several scientific, political, and moral factors affecting such a decision.

Should we use new biotechnologies to bring species back from extinction? Why or why not?

You are *not* expected to go beyond the articles in that folder to write this essay, though you may if you would like more background. [This site](#) is particularly useful. You may also find the background and concepts from the class and tutorial to be helpful.

Your essay should be approximately 900 words (±10%) and your name should be included on either the first or last page.

The essay is **due via email** to both mariscal@dal.ca and lisbeth.witthoefft.nielsen@dal.ca by midnight **October 8th**. Late papers are subject to a 10% penalty per day.

A few helpful tips:

- ✦ Motivate your issue and present your argument as early as possible.
- ✦ Have a clear thesis statement.
- ✦ Make sure the structure of the paper is clear to the reader.
- ✦ Define your terms.
- ✦ Use “I” semi-formally (I argue... I suggest...).
- ✦ Avoid rhetorical questions. Make statements.
- ✦ Avoid relying too heavily on quotes from others.
- ✦ Be precise. ‘Every,’ ‘all,’ ‘never,’ etc. should be used very carefully.
- ✦ Consider the ethical frameworks from chapter 2 (deontology, consequentialism, virtue theory) – one or more may come in handy for this question.
- ✦ If you do get ideas from outside sources, be sure to properly attribute them. Failure to do so is a form of academic dishonesty and subject to harsh penalties. We will check.
- ✦ If you do cite sources, use a consistent style throughout.

