

English 9 Honors Summer Project 2016

Michael Crichton's text challenges us to think about the ethical, social, and economic ramifications of scientific research. Should scientists be able to conduct whatever research they wish? Should government control scientific research? Does industry have the public's best interest in mind?

The text also delights us with thoughts of scientific possibilities. What would the world be like if we really could bring dinosaurs to life? What else might we do someday?

Task:

1. Read and annotate Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*. (Annotate using Post-It notes or any other note-taking form that makes you happy.)
2. Write a 225-word response to this question: ***Should scientists be able to conduct unrestricted research?*** Please do not exceed the word limit. Double space your response. Be sure to include at least one quotation from *Jurassic Park* in your response. Use MLA citation.
3. Construct a visual representation that honors the text. You can use whatever medium you wish. For example, you can create a poster, make a diorama, build a paper mache dinosaur. Let it fly! Do something crazy. Please do NOT use images from the movie. Be sure to include your name and a brief description of what you have constructed.

Ideas for choosing a topic for your visual:

- Recreate a scene from the text that you find particularly compelling.
- Select a quote from the text and give it life.
- Create a visual that represents an ethical issue that the book raises.

GRADING:

Essay: Up to 50 points. We will grade you primarily on your adherence to the rules listed above. Did you include a quotation? A citation? Did you heed the 225-word limit? Did you make your argument clear?

Visual: Up to 50 points. Did you follow the rules? Did you do something interesting? We won't grade you on your artistic prowess, but we will grade you on neatness.

Sample MLA citation:

Scientists must be allowed to conduct research without restriction. Even though human weakness leads to grave consequences in Crichton's text, we cannot base our decisions on isolated incidents as tragedy has always accompanied progress: "Two workers died building the cliff road. One other died as a result of an earth-mover accident in January" (Crichton 62). Whether a result of construction or malfeasance or a laboratory mishap, tragedy and progress go hand in hand.

Things to keep an eye out for as you read:

- Who are the characters? What are they like?
- What are the scientific procedures? (Don't worry about understanding every single scientific term. There are many of them. It's more important that you think about the underlying ideas.)
- Where in the text do things go wrong?
- What are the *ethical questions that arise?
- Where in the text do things seem exciting or full of possibility?
- Who lives? Who dies?
- Compelling scenes from the text

*We snagged this definition of an ethical question from ask.com "An **ethical question is a question that looks at a situation or a problem whose solution is not obvious and asks people to choose which solution or solutions can be considered "right" or ethical.**" What's particularly interesting about ethical questions is that people often do not agree on "right."

