

**What will you die of?  
&**

**Health in 2030**

**Week 4 Lecture 2**

**Before we go down the technology rabbit hole...**

We need to talk about the economics of technology

Otherwise, very little makes sense

# Newspaper headlines

Starvation

Global warming

High drug prices

New dangerous diseases

And more...

# Global warming (bio)tech

If you are a (bio)engineer, then in three minutes, you can think of ways to address global warming:

- Sunlight and CO<sub>2</sub> to biofuels
- Use Photovoltaics to split water, make Hydrogen
- Collect CO<sub>2</sub> from atmosphere and store deep underground

SCOTT KIRSNER | INNOVATION ECONOMY

## How a biofuel dream turned into a nightmare



COURTESY OF JOULE UNLIMITED

Joule was designing a system that would produce diesel fuel or gasoline using nothing more than the sun, carbon dioxide, water, and a genetically modified bacterium.

A photograph of a vast desert landscape featuring several large, smooth sand dunes under a clear, pale blue sky. The dunes are a light tan or beige color, with some darker shadows along their edges and ridges. The perspective is from a low angle, looking up at the dunes.

There is one tiny little problem

Deals

# Aramco Pumps Oil at Fraction of Rivals' Costs and Way More of It

By [Anthony Dipaola](#)

April 1, 2019, 6:24 AM PDT

*Updated on April 1, 2019, 2:00 PM PDT*

- Cost of extracting crude is \$2.80 a barrel: bond prospectus
- Production is more than 5 international oil companies combined

Source: Aramco bond prospectus, Bloomberg

Note: Some data provided by person who saw presentation for investors

Global warming tech



Food Mart

Diesel  
No. 2

469 9/10

Supreme

489 9/10

Plus

469 9/10

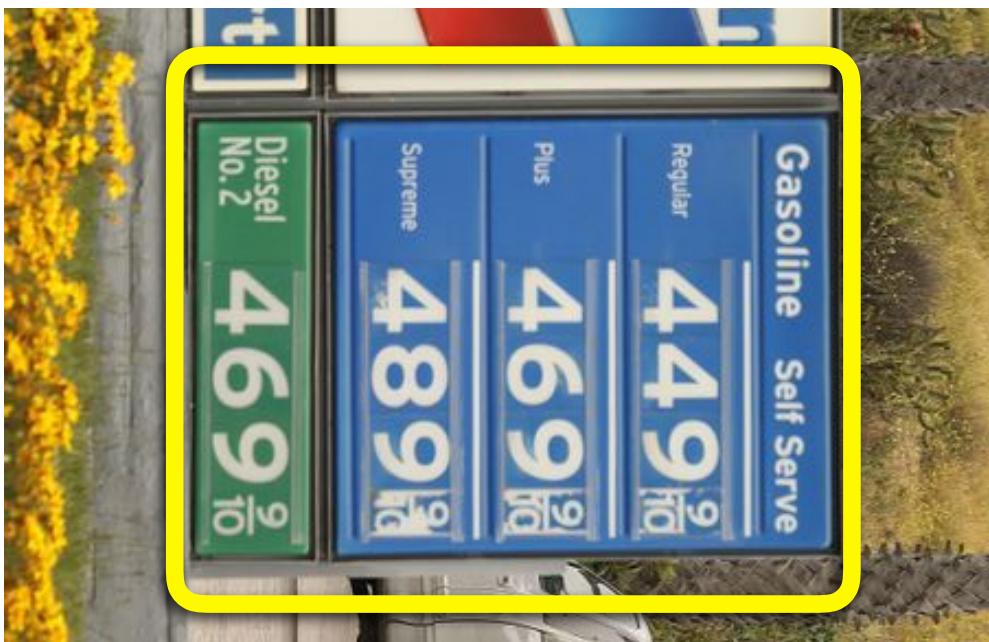
Regular

449 9/10

Gasoline Self Serve

Self

# Global warming tech



1 barrel = 42 gallons  
42 gallons at the pump  
= \$189  
 $\$189 / \$2.80 = 66.50\%$  profit

DO PM PDT  
ie it's \$2.80 a barrel.  
Carbon  
an 5 international oil co

# Global warming tech



Cost to extract crude from  
the ground  
\$0.06 per gallon

6650% profit

100 fold difference



[https://www.card.iastate.edu/  
research/biorenewables/tools/  
hist\\_bio\\_gm.aspx](https://www.card.iastate.edu/research/biorenewables/tools/hist_bio_gm.aspx)

Cost to make 'crude' at the plant  
\$3 per gallon



# Global warming tech

## Competitiveness: Biofuels vs Petroleum-based fuels

Compared to biofuels, the refining of petroleum is less expensive as it is highly optimised and nothing is wasted. Projections of price and technology development that show that advanced biofuels could be competitive with fossil fuels on a volume basis, but timing ranges from 2020-2030 and at an oil price ranging from US\$70-US\$150/barrel. At a low price of US\$60/barrel only conventional biofuels such as sugar cane ethanol can currently compete directly on a volume basis<sup>[10]</sup>.

As technology advances, biofuels can come to the market at lower costs, with a lower environmental impact and higher GHG reductions. As seen with conventional biofuels, a cost reduction of between 1.5-3 times can be achieved in 10-20 years<sup>[11]</sup>.

<http://www.biofuelsforeurope.eu/cost-competitiveness/>



Prediction - Biofuels will compete with Aramco in 90 years assuming production cost goes down by 1/2 every 20 years

2030	- \$50
2050	- \$25
2070	- \$12.5
2090	- \$6.25
<b>2110</b>	<b>- \$3.13</b>

What's the issue with this calculation?

# Newspaper headlines

Starvation

Global warming

High drug prices

New dangerous diseases

And much more...

# Drug (bio)tech

## Oncology drug prices

Scientific progress, pricing power, drive pharmaceutical companies to emphasize oncology research.



### PD1/PDL1 CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR PRICES

Estimated average per month\*

Opdivo BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB	Keytruda MERCK	Bavencio ** PFIZER	Tecentriq ROCHE HOLDING
\$13,100	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$12,500

\* Drug price is based on the milligrams of medicine used and varies with the weight of the individual patient.

\*\* Bavarencio's price is the wholesale acquisition cost for an average patient.

Sources: QuintilesIMS Institute ; Reuters

C. Chan 30/03/2017

# Drug (bio)tech

Use bioengineering to  
make cheap drugs that  
everyone can afford!



The Genius Issue

TIME

Double Issue

Jan. 2015

# Drug (bio)tech

Let's look at manufacturing costs...

Words that do not appear in the report:

Appendix A  
2018 Financial Report  
*Cost of goods sold (GOCS)*  
*Materials*  
*Manufacturing cost*

# Drug (bio)tech

Cost of sales: 21%

**ANALYSIS OF THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)	Year Ended December 31,			% Change	
	2018	2017	2016	18/17	17/16
Revenues	<b>\$ 53,647</b>	<b>\$ 52,546</b>	<b>\$ 52,824</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(1)</b>
Cost of sales	11,248	11,228	12,322	—	(9)
% of revenues	21.0%	21.4 %	23.3%		
Selling, informational and administrative expenses	14,435	14,804	14,844	(2)	—
% of revenues	26.9%	28.2 %	28.1%		
Research and development expenses	8,006	7,683	7,892	4	(3)
% of revenues	14.9%	14.6 %	14.9%		
Amortization of intangible assets	4,893	4,758	4,056	3	17
% of revenues	9.1%	9.1 %	7.7%		
Restructuring charges and certain acquisition-related costs	1,044	351	1,565	*	(78)
% of revenues	1.9%	0.7 %	3.0%		
Other (income)/deductions—net	2,116	1,416	3,794	49	(63)
Income from continuing operations/(benefit) for taxes on income	11,885	12,305	8,351	(3)	47
% of revenues	22.2%	23.4 %	15.8%		
Provision/(benefit) for taxes on income	706	(9,049)	1,123	*	*
Effective tax rate	5.9%	(73.5)%	13.4%		
Income from continuing operations	11,179	21,353	7,229	(48)	*
% of revenues	20.8%	40.6 %	13.7%		
Discontinued operations—net of tax	10	2	17	*	(87)
Net income before allocation to noncontrolling interests	11,188	21,355	7,246	(48)	*
% of revenues	20.9%	40.6 %	13.7%		
Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	36	47	31	(24)	54 *
Net income attributable to Pfizer Inc.	<b>\$ 11,153</b>	<b>\$ 21,308</b>	<b>\$ 7,215</b>	<b>(48)</b>	<b>*</b>
% of revenues	20.8%	40.6 %	13.7%		

Ballpark:

'chemicals' relatively  
small part of COS

Marketing: 27%

R&D: 14%

So - before you invest in, or start, a business in bio/tech/health, run the numbers - what are the basics of the business, and what does the completion look like?

# How can we imagine and realize the future?

Just because you want something to come true, doesn't make it come true.

**Key:** opportunities can fail for many reasons, **Technical** and **Societal**

Today's goal: Examine 2 case studies at the cross section of bioengineering and health.

# Case#1 Artemisinin: Low cost & Local production of high value chemicals

Malaria



Anopheles gambiae



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Malaria is one of the most severe public health problems worldwide. A leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, where young children and pregnant women are the groups most affected.

According to the [World Health Organization's World Malaria Report 2013](#) and the Global Malaria Action Plan

- 3.2 billion people (half the world's population) live in areas at risk of malaria transmission in 106 countries and territories
- In 2012, malaria caused an estimated 207 million clinical episodes, and 627,000 deaths. An estimated 91% of deaths in 2010 were in the African Region.

## Case-I: Malaria

It would be nice if....

Science

There were a good antimalarial drug,

and

people could actually access it?

Policy, economics

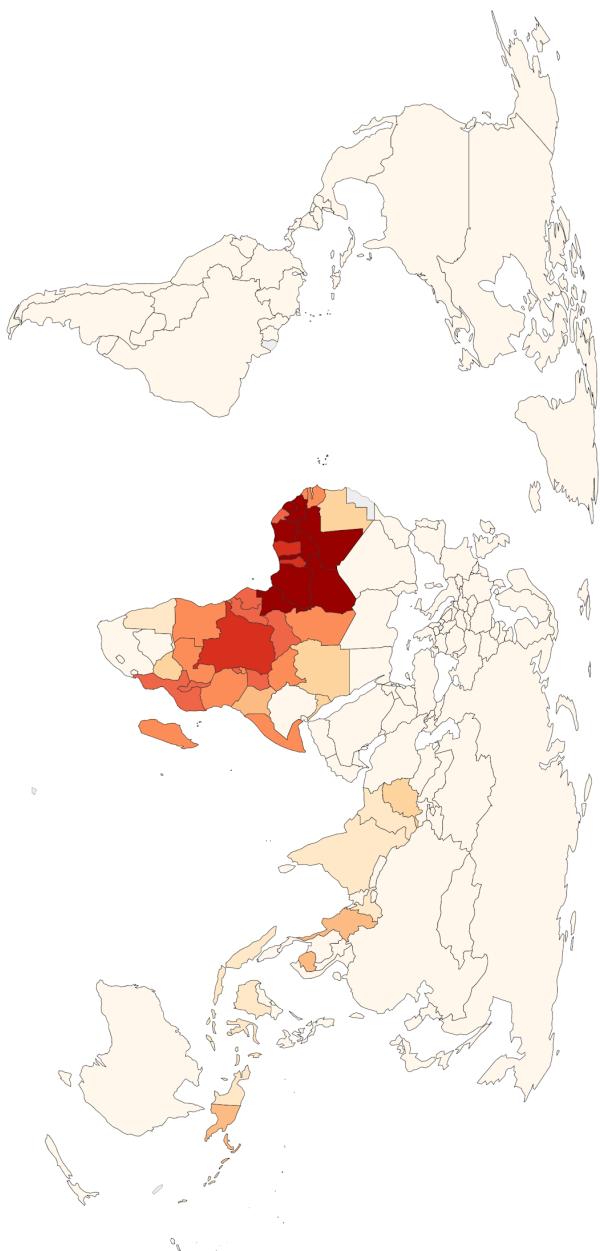
# Case background - Malaria death rates (per 100,000)

## Malaria death rates (per 100,000), 2016

Age-standardized death rates from malaria, measured as the number of deaths per 100,000 individuals.

Age-standardization assumes a constant population age & structure to allow for comparisons between countries and with time without the effects of a changing age distribution within a population (e.g. aging).

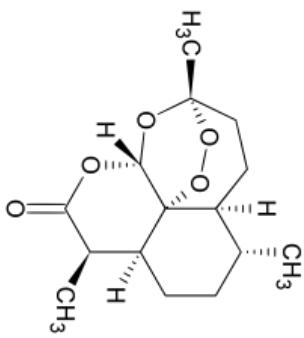
Our  
World  
in  
Data



Source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (GBD)

[OurWorldInData.org/malaria/](http://OurWorldInData.org/malaria/) • CC BY

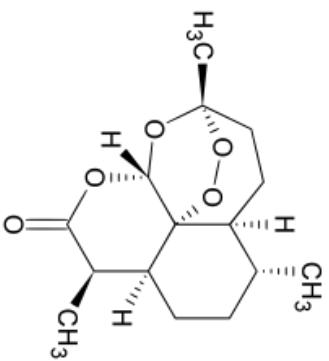
# Case background- Artemisinin



- I. Artemisinin is isolated from the plant *Artemisia annua* (sweet wormwood) - (Tu Youyou received [The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015](#))
  - I. Used to treat malaria and parasitic worm infections
  - I. **Advantage:** kills parasites faster and all the stages of life cycle
  - I. **Disadvantage:** low bioavailability, and high cost
  - I. **Concern:** Use of the drug by itself is explicitly discouraged by the WHO. Signs of resistance by malarial parasites

# Case background- Artemisinin

amyris



## Alternative approach:

- No farming
- Double the global supply
- Stabilize price to \$300/kg.
- Prices will drop quickly - tens of dollars per kg.

Can be produced anywhere in the world, rapidly

Almost zero land use  
No solvents waste

## Farming approach:

- Grow wormwood, thousands of Farmers and 20,000 hectares
- In Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique, India, Vietnam, and China
- Extract compound via solvents (diethylether)
- \$100-1000 per kg (limited supply)

## What is the **science** behind the approach?

“Here we report the engineering of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to produce high titres (up to 100 mg l<sup>-1</sup>) of artemisinic acid using an engineered mevalonate pathway ... The synthesized artemisinic acid is transported out and retained on the outside of the engineered yeast, meaning that a simple and inexpensive purification process can be used to obtain the desired product.

Although the engineered yeast is already capable of producing artemisinic acid at a significantly higher specific productivity than *A. annua*, yield optimization and industrial scale-up will be required to raise artemisinic acid production to a level high enough to reduce artemisinin combination therapies to significantly below their current prices.”

**nature**  
International journal of science

Letter

Published: 13 April 2006

### Production of the antimalarial drug precursor artemisinic acid in engineered yeast

Dae-Kyun Ro, Eric M. Paradise, Mario Ouellet, Karl J. Fisher, Karyn L. Newman, John M. Ndungu, Kimberly A. Ho, Rachel A. Eachus, Timothy S. Ham, James Kirby, Michelle C. Y. Chang & Jay D. Keasling 

*Nature* **440**, 940–943 (2006) | Download Citation 

([source](#))

## Case-I: Malaria

It would be nice if....

Science

There were a good antimalarial drug,

and

people could actually access it?

Policy, economics

## What are the **societal** aspects of approach?

### Synthetic anti-malarial compound is bad news for artemisia farmers

Artemisinin breakthrough by synthetic biologists threatens to open new front in battle between microbes and people



“In the constant fight between microbes and people, attempts to rein in the malaria parasite have just taken an interesting turn. On Thursday the founder of Amyris Biotech triumphantly announced production of 70m doses of the anti-malarial compound artemisinin. This sounds like good news for poor people but may be a step backwards – the start of a new hi-tech assault on farmers.”

[Source](#)

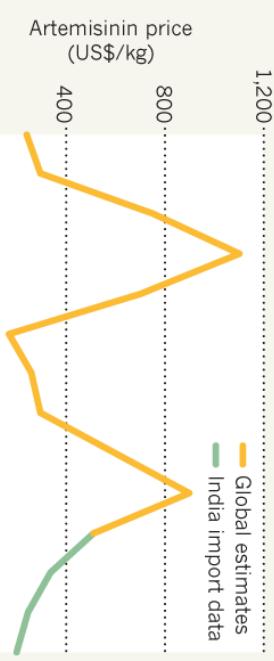
▲ A farmer harvests sweet wormwood trees in Youyang, rural Chongqing, China. 2006. Photograph: Michael Reynolds/EPA

# Synthetic biology's first malaria drug meets market resistance (2016)

Commercial use of genetically engineered yeast to make medicine has modest impact.

## A STABLE ARTEMISININ MARKET?

After a decade of instability, prices of the malaria drug artemisinin have dropped and demand has stopped rising.



'That is partly because of a glut in agricultural artemisinin. For the past two years, the naturally derived chemical has sold for less than \$250 per kg ... "If that price is already very low and there's a bumper crop, there's no reason to fire up a fermenter," says Jay Keasling of the UC Berkeley, who led the team that first developed the yeast strain... "I'd like to see 'semi-synthetic' artemisinin take over as the dominant form, and some day I think it will," says Keasling. "But we have to be patient."

Source

\*ACT\* courses delivered (millions)  
©nature

## Activity-I: Discussion in Groups (2 mins)

In small groups discuss the following:

1. Who are the key stakeholders in this case?
2. Was Amyris successful? Why? What (if anything) went wrong?
3. If you were in charge of Amyris, what would you have done differently?
4. Are there any concerns associated with easy (affordable) access to Artemisinin?

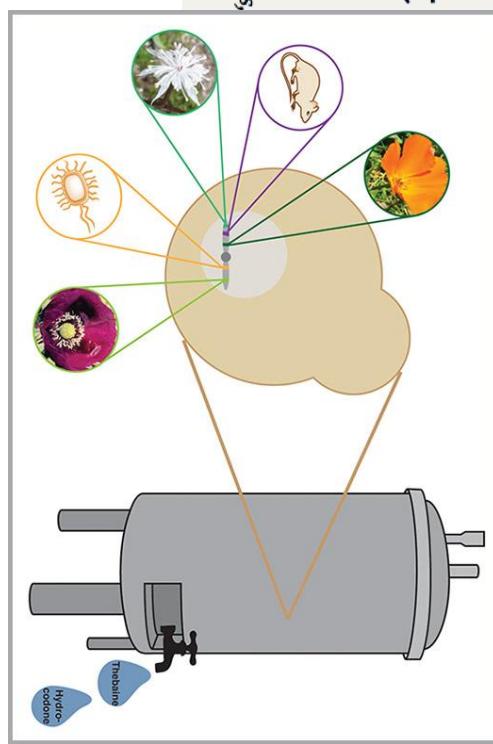
Share back to the entire class

# Case#2 Opioids: Low cost & Local production of high value chemicals

AUGUST 13, 2015

## Stanford researchers genetically engineer yeast to produce opioids

*It typically takes a year to produce hydrocodone from plants, but Christina Smolke and colleagues have genetically modified yeast to make it in just a few days. The technique could improve access to medicines in impoverished nations, and later be used to develop treatments for other diseases.*



(Image credit: Stephanie Galanis, Smolke Lab)

# Final Project

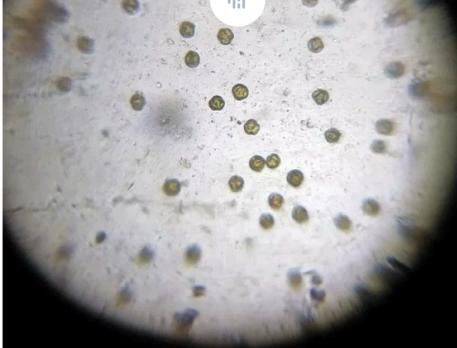
Intro. to BioE, Spring 2019

15% of grade

## *Introduce Bioengineering*

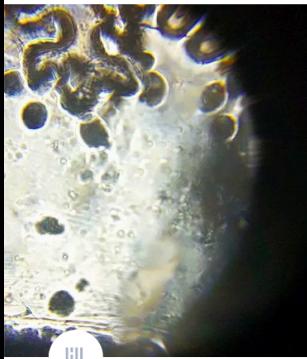
- Topic or aspect of your choosing
- Audience(s) of your choosing
- Method of your choosing\*

\*Your project output must take the form of some digital artifact that can be shared on a world-readable basis. Video, article, recording, other



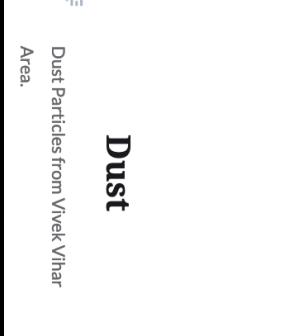
## POLLEN OF NEEDLEWOOD TREE

ITS SCIENTIFIC NAME IS SCHIMA WALlichii , LOCALLY KNOWN IN SIKKIM BY CHILAUNE. This tree is also known for its beautiful flower

[READ MORE](#)

## ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON FOLDSCOPE

AT ULDIDIAH PRIMARY SCHOOL,

[READ MORE](#)

From Hotel Park view from  
Heema Hospital Area From Raj  
Bhavan Tinli

Dust Particles from H-Sector  
area Ganga Market Area From  
Civil Secretariat

## Dust

Dust Particles from Vivek Vihar  
Area.

Topic/Aspect Audience Method



# Topic/Aspect   Audience   Method

DNA  
synthesis



Elementary  
School  
Teachers

Card Game

**BAR**

# **36 Points**

Teams rule! (6 points)

Brainstorming topic/aspect, audience, method  
(starting this Friday; 10 points each)

# **30 Points**

Picking topic/aspect, audience, method  
(starting Week 6; 10 points each)

# **30 Points**

Develop actual project output (NYT editorial, video, etc)  
(starting Week 7, 10 points each for different aspects)

# **4 Points**

Teammate self assessments

# **Step 1.**

Team building quiz, right now...

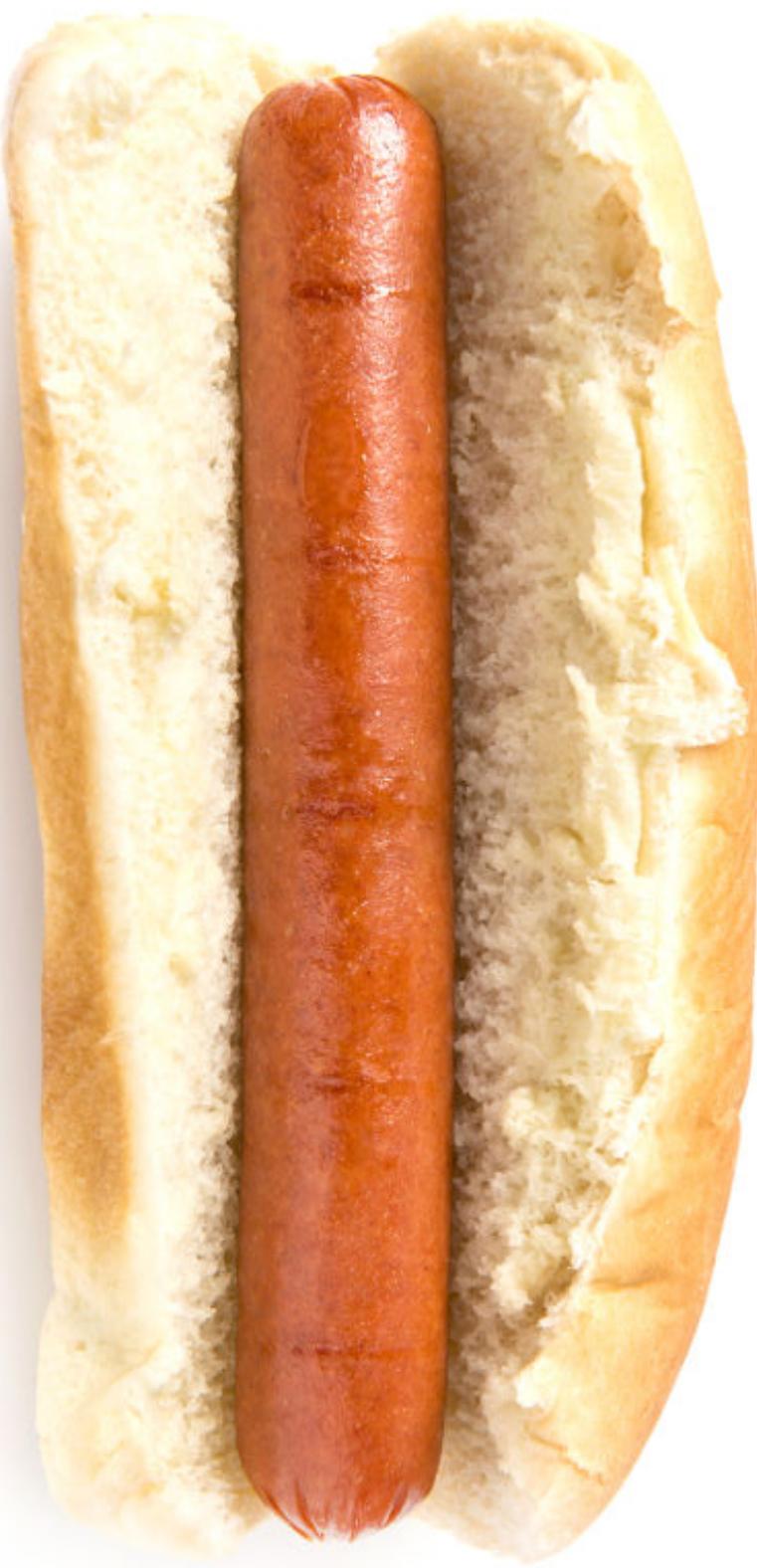
# **Step 2.**

Come to class this Friday to assemble into your teams  
AND learn brainstorming...

Come to class this Friday to assemble into your teams  
AND learn brainstorming...

**CLASS FRIDAY WILL BE HERE, IN 320-105**

**FRIDAY CLASS WILL BE HERE, IN 320-105**



**FRIDAY CLASS WILL BE HERE, IN 320-105**