# Discussion and Conclusion

The results of my survey show that there are deep divisions in the beliefs of upperclassmen at Amador Valley High School. The results show that there are no real majority opinions except on a few key issues. Clearly, there is a strong sentiment against genetically experimenting with people, but there is also a strong sentiment for the use of gene therapy to treat cancer. This shows that the general opinions favor the use of genetics for purposes that have been deemed important for the "good" of medicine. This is reflected by different groups in different ways.

The prevaling attitude of the people surveyed is that genetic enhancement of non-human organisms is ethical some of the time. There was an almost exact split on whether or not animals should be cloned. 52% of the people felt that animals should be cloned, while 45% felt that they shouldn't be cloned and 3% were undecided. Another issue that doesn't have a very clear answer is that of the introduction and/or exchange of DNA in non-human organisms. 55% of the people felt that DNA should be added or exchanged in different species while 35% did not and 10% were undecided. The interesting part about this is that the girls were overall more divided while the boys had a prevailing opinion that favored the exchange and addition of DNA to organisms. However, most people were against using this same type of experimentation in people.

Overall, my hypothesis was both right and wrong. I was right in predicting that gene therapy would be viewed as a viable and ethical way to treat cancer, but I was wrong about the cloning of non-human organisms. There were a large number of people who had reservations about cloning in general or were completely against it. Also, there was the same feeling towards genetic enhancement of non-human organisms. This was a completely unexpected result because many people are already consumers of genetically enhanced food, but it is entirely possible that those surveyed didn't think of those types of possibilities. This is shown in the response of both boys and girls to question 13, which asks about genetically engineered food. 68% of the girls and 81% of the boys will eat genetically engineered food, but 27% of girls and 14% of boys won't eat genetically engineered food. 5% of boys and 5% of girls are undecided. This shows that people are generally in favor of genetic enhancement of food. However, it is ironic to think that some if not all of the people who are against genetic enhancement of food has eaten something genetically enhanced because the products are common now.

Further surveying would clear up any possible ambiguity for any of the issues as well as provide a more representative view of the upperclassmen at Amador Valley High School. This survey could be distributed to a larger and more diverse group of people in order to get a better idea of the general opinions about these issues outside of AVHS. If an in depth study of ethics in genetics was done, it would be more representative to survey more people who are of different ages, locations, and backgrounds than was possible for me to do.

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