Biotechnology: GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)

GMOs, much like the pGlo you introduced to *E. coli* 1st semester, are in the news a lot these days. But besides transgenic bacteria, where else are GMOs found? Do you know which foods we consume contain GMOs? California voters were asked to vote on this very issue in 2012.

Check out the organization that behind the proposition: <http://www.labelgmos.org/>

Next, review the information about how the vote went down and who was on each side: [California voters](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/California_Proposition_37,_Mandatory_Labeling_of_Genetically_Engineered_Food_(2012))

The vote in 2012 is most likely far from the last time this issue hits a ballot. The controversy continues to rage in the US and worldwide on not only labeling GMO products, but even whether or not they should be used in the first place. Some countries do not allow GMOs at all; others allow GMOs only if they were engineered in the country producing them… there is as much politics (trade acts, etc) behind the GMO debate as there is consumer concern.

Your task is to investigate whether or not we should be worried about unlabeled GMOs in our diet.

Look at the claims from both sides. Read the articles containing information supporting both sides. Complete your Claim-Evidence-Analysis-Reasoning-Rebuttal worksheet. Then, you may pick one side or the other, your choice, to support, but you need to write a convincing reflection for why that side is the most valid. Show what you have learned and conclude in a one page summary. Make sure that your flow of logic is apparent to make the reader share your view. Make sure you put any citations at the end of sentences as a superscript and use APA format for all the references at the end of your paper.

Here is the suggested format:

Paragraph #1: Background on the subject.

Paragraph #2: Present why your position is the most valid using evidence gathered.

Paragraph #3: Why the opposing view is not as valid.

Paragraph #4: Summary and recommendations.

References

Articles Supporting the use of GMOs:

[GMOs Are Nothing to Fear](http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2013/11/04/scientific-evidence-doesnt-show-gmos-are-harmful)

[Labels for GMOs Are a Bad Idea](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/labels-for-gmo-foods-are-a-bad-idea/?page=1)

Article Refuting the use of GMOs:

[GMO Facts](http://www.nongmoproject.org/learn-more/)

[Statement: No Scientific Consensus on GMO Safety](http://www.ensser.org/increasing-public-information/no-scientific-consensus-on-gmo-safety/)

References:

1. Bailey, P. (2013, November 4). GMOs Are Nothing to Fear. *US News*. Retrieved May 22, 2014, from <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2013/11/04/scientific-evidence-doesnt-show-gmos-are-harmful>
2. Labels for GMO Foods Are a Bad Idea. (2013, August 20). *Scientific American Global RSS*. Retrieved May 22, 2014, from <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/labels-for-gmo-foods-are-a-bad-idea/?page=1>
3. GMO Facts. (n.d.). *The NonGMO Project RSS*. Retrieved May 22, 2014, from <http://www.nongmoproject.org/learn-more/>
4. No scientific consensus on GMO safety. (2013, October 21). *No scientific consensus on GMO safety*. Retrieved May 22, 2014, from <http://www.ensser.org/increasing-public-information/no-scientific-consensus-on-gmo-safety/>