

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn of the societal concerns and controversial implications of collection and long term storage of DNA samples and profiles of the public by government agency for the purpose of forensic investigation and control of crime.
- Students will be able to state, support, reject and address opinions on bioethical issues as well as discuss concerns about collection and long term storage of DNA samples and profiles of the public for the purpose of forensic investigation and control of crime.

Assignment Instruction

With the advancement of DNA technology and analysis, DNA forensic science is further empowered for solving crime, human identification and familial relationship determination. In view of the increasing terrorist threat and the need for crime control, various security measures have been introduced to enhance vigilance and safeguard society. It is therefore not difficult to anticipate that having our DNA collected, profiled and stored in a national databank could soon be used as additional security measures that could contribute to a safer society.

Imagine that you live in a country where some government officials and policy analysts are tinkering with the idea of expanding the existing DNA database generated from forensic investigation to cover the entire population for the purpose of solving and controlling crime and terrorism. The proposal of the creation of a population-wide DNA databank involved systematic collection and profiling of DNA from every person, i.e. adult, children and newborn, where both DNA samples and profiles will be stored indefinitely. These would include citizens, permanent residents, foreign workers and students. It has been anticipated that it would take about ten years to DNA fingerprint the whole nation and the resources spent is worth the security gained. With a truly national DNA databank, advocates and law-enforcement officials note that this would go a long way toward solving and controlling crime and terrorism.

Imagine that you are a freelance writer and a frequent contributor of articles with scientific and social themes to a newspaper column. You read the article “The Government Wants Your DNA” (uploaded onto the Additional Reading Material Folder). You did further internet research and found that there are societal concerns and controversies surrounding the collection and long-term storage of DNA samples for the purpose of expanding population-wide DNA database intended for forensic investigation. You decided to write an ‘Opinion’ article for the newspaper column by highlighting societal concerns and the controversial issues surrounding the creation of a population-wide DNA databank that includes long term storage of DNA samples and profiles for the purpose of forensic investigation, and by proposing recommendations that could help address, if not minimize, these concerns.

Assignment Task:

1. In the Assignment 3_Answer Sheet, write an essay that must include, although not limited to, the following:

- i) Highlight as many societal concerns/controversial issues as possible that are surrounding the creation of a population-wide DNA databank that involved the long term storage of DNA samples and profiles of the public.
- ii) Recommendations that could help address, if not minimize, these concerns and controversial issues.
- iii) Within a Table provided in the answer sheet, summarize in concise point-forms the list of societal concerns/controversial issues and their corresponding recommendations that you have highlighted in your article. This Table is to be placed at the end of your article (before your references, if any) which you will refer to in your written text.
- iv) Provide a Title for your article.

Your essay should contain no more than 1200 words (excluding the Table references and citations). Do not include images into your essay.

2. Include proper citation in the text and referencing, if any, at the end of the essay. There is no restriction to citation and reference format used (do not use footnotes though), but keep them consistent so that each citation in the text can be traced to the source. You may have multiple paragraphs and/or subheadings (included in word count) if you wished.
3. Your essay must be written in English Language using Microsoft Word in the Assignment 3_Answer Sheet.doc provided in the IVLE assignment folder.

This assignment is an individual effort and will account for 10% of your overall final grade.
Your essay will be evaluated with the following criteria:

Content: 5 marks.

Writing (Style, Clarity & Organization): 5 marks.

You need to do a self-plagiarism check on submission in the IVLE (you need to have less than 20% similarity). Any submission with greater than 50% similarity will be given zero marks and between 20%-50% will have half (50%) of their final marks deducted.

Submission Instruction

1. Deadline Submission of Softcopy: **March 4, 2015 (Wednesday), 6 am.**

2. Softcopy online submission upload to IVLE>Workbin Assignment Submission Folder>Student Submission>Assignment 3 Submission.
3. Name your file in the following format, "yourmatricnumber_Assignment03". If your matriculation number is U081234A, the filename should be "U081234A_Assignment03".
4. Save your file in the following format: Microsoft Word document.
5. Perform a self-plagiarism check upon submission on the IVLE. When uploading your submission, there is an icon in the submission workbin for you to click for plagiarism check. You can view the similarity report after your submission has been processed. For this assignment, you should have **less than 20% similarity**.
6. To ensure that the correct file has been successfully uploaded to the correct folder, please login to the IVLE website after a few minutes you have logged-out, download the file you had uploaded to the folder, and open the downloaded file to verify that it is the correct file.
7. It is *your responsibility* to ensure that the *correct file* is uploaded successfully to the correct folder. You will *not* be given a second chance to upload another file to the folder *after* the deadline has passed.
8. If you decide to upload an updated version of your submission *before* the deadline, please delete the older file before uploading the newer file and perform another self-plagiarism check on your latest submission.
9. Late submission, wrong submission or failure in submission will not be entertained and student will be awarded zero marks. Marks will be deducted for sloppy submission (e.g. submitted into wrong folder, incorrect file name, no matriculation number, did not submit for self-plagiarism check etc.)
10. Person in-charge: Madam Wong Wai Peng (dbswwp@nus.edu.sg).