**AP Biology Unit 2 Project – The Organelle Campaign**

*\*\*\*Breaking News Story\*\*\**

*The rumors, accusations, and chest pound resounded throughout the community of Cellville. Organelles, though normally an organized group working together well, were a fragmented group. It seems that certain organelles had the notion they were more important or performed a more important function than other fellow organelles.*

*“If it wasn’t for us, you couldn’t exist!” shouted the mitochondria.*

*“Well, I beg to differ!” exclaimed the chloroplast.*

*Cellville was divided.*

*“Please, please,” pleaded the ribosome, “a cell divided cannot stand.”*

*“I say I perform the most important function in Cellville and I know that, if asked, the majority of the other organelles would agree,” boasted the cell membrane.*

*“Yes, I think Mr. Do Nothing Accurately, has a point,” added the nucleus. “Let’s take some time to organize a campaign to inform the other organelles of our important functions and then put it to a vote.”*

*“I feel more secure if everything is in its place,” muttered the cytoskeleton, “so we need to establish the procedures, rules, and requirements.”*

**Purpose:**

The main goal of a cell is to produce proteins which are used as building blocks in a variety of ways (hair, muscle, other tissues, repair, growth, enzymes, etc). You must run a campaign to get your assigned organelle elected as The Most Important Organelle. You will have to argue that, without your organelle, the cell and the organism and consequently the world as we know it will collapse. Everyone in the class must choose a different organelle.

1. You must create **one poster** championing the greatness of your organelle. This will be posted in the classroom. Include a picture of your organelle, and identify its function in some way. Make up a good, catchy slogan for your campaign. This poster should not have a ton of information on it. Please include links to any websites you used on the back.
2. In addition to your poster, you must create a **campaign pamphlet (trifold brochure), a campaign website, or some voter paraphernalia** to describe how totally awesome your organelle is.

Whichever of these you choose to do, you must include catchy graphics and details as to the structure and function of the organelle. It should be well organized and easy for the voter to follow. Try not to have long paragraphs of information – voters are looking for the main ideas quickly. Be sure to relate the structure of the organelle to its function. Tell your voter why your organelle is important for survival of the organism. Be very detailed about the jobs it performs. Link the organelle to survival of the organism. Can you link the organelle to survival of an ecosystem? The whole entire world? Okay, maybe this is a little dramatic, but that is how campaigns can be. Can you find quotes from doctors or other experts? Can you find dramatic pictures and examples? Can you explain what life would be like without your organelle? Can you make campaign promises – what will you guarantee life will be like with your organelle as the most important?

Mudslinging. The fun stuff. It seems every politician does it. You need to run a **smear campaign** against at least 3 other organelles. Look up what diseases are associated with mutations or malfunctions of their organelles. You can use some mudslinging in the pamphlet/website/etc. above but you must include it in your campaign speech.

Election Day. You need to prepare a **campaign speech**. You can prepare a video to play for the class or present it in person. In your speech, you need to convince the voters based on structure and function that your organelle is the most important. You have to try to deflect the smear campaigns in other speeches. The speeches should only be about 3 minutes long. You need to provide me with a transcript of your speech. After the speeches, we will vote. You will be allowed one vote (and NOT for yourself).