

BLM – Food Irradiation: What’s the Scoop?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Food Irradiation Individual Writing Assignment

Assignment due date: _____

What is an “op-ed” piece?

The op-ed page is a page traditionally placed **opposite** the **editorial** page in a newspaper. It features signed articles by commentators expressing personal opinions. An op-ed piece is a means to communicate an opinion on an issue, offer solutions and ask for community support.

Key Question:

You will be writing an op-ed about whether or not Canadians would be safer if all food in Canada were irradiated before being sold to the public.

Assignment:

You will be required to write a persuasive essay in which you will defend your position on this issue using examples and evidence from each group’s backgrounder. You will also be required to propose a course of action on this issue based on your position, taking into account economics, technology, human health and government regulations. Don’t forget to give your piece a title that will grab the reader’s attention.

The op-ed piece will be a maximum of one page (250 words) in length and must be typed (12 pt, 1.5 line spacing).

Below are some examples of op-ed science pieces online.

(Retrieved Aug. 1, 2019)

- Joshua S. Goldstein, Staffan A. Qvist and Steven Pinker, **“Nuclear Power Can Save the World,”** *The New York Times*, April 6, 2019.
- Julia Stasch and Chris Crane, **“It’s time for environmentalists and the energy industry to work together,”** *TIME*, October 12, 2018.
- Lisa Murkowski, **“The case for advanced nuclear reactors,”** *Washington Examiner*, September 17, 2018.
- Former Sens. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) and Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), **“Don’t pull the plug on nuclear power,”** *The Hill*, March 31, 2014.
- John Chretien, Joe Clark, Ed Broadbent and Lloyd Axworthy, **“Toward a world without Nuclear weapons,”** *The Globe and Mail*, March 25, 2010.

For more details about this assignment, see the **Food Irradiation Backgrounder Rubric BLM.**