Instructor: (2002 Science Teacher Workshop participant)
School District: Vernon Township
Lesson Title: Food Irradiation: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.
Grades: 7-12
Subjects: Language Arts and Science
Overview: Students will research and develop a five-paragraph essay stating their position on food irradiation.
Objectives:
• Students will conduct research using a variety of materials.
• Students will recognize how the prejudice of the author influences the content of the material.
• Students will take a position on a controversial topic.
• Students will write a five-paragraph essay supporting a given position on a controversial science topic. (GEPA skill)
Materials and Resources: Science journals, web sites and writing organizers.
• Students will research a given topic, such as food irradiation. Library time will be available.
• Students will find 3 articles giving both the positive and negative aspects of the given topic.
• Class discussion will take place about how the position of the author and the propaganda used in the writing affect the overall quality and accuracy of the information stated.
• After reading the articles, the student must fill out the attached organizer to determine the position the student will be taking. Eight facts per side must be listed.
• The essay will be written in the given five-paragraph format.
• Revision and editing will then take place.
• Final essay will be submitted for evaluation.
• Examples of prop and con references:
  • http://www.organicconsumers.org/irrad/irradfact.cfm “What’s Wrong with Food Irradiation”
  • http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/foodirradiation.htm#whatis “Frequently asked questions on food irradiation”, Center for Disease Control
Topic: Food Irradiation

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ESSAY FORMAT

Introduction: WHO _______________
WHAT _______________
WHERE _______________
WHEN _______________
WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE? ____

- Be clear what your position is!_______________

FIRST REASON

1 supporting detail
2 supporting detail
3 supporting detail

- Include transition words

SECOND REASON

1 supporting detail
2 supporting detail
3 supporting detail

- Include transition words

THIRD REASON

1 supporting detail
2 supporting detail
3 supporting detail

Conclusion: Restate your position on the topic. Highlight your most impressive arguments. Leave the reader believing your opinion!!!