

Student Cover Letter

19 December 2008

To Whom This May Concern,

In this letter, I am writing to introduce my entry for the spring 2009 issue of *Writing the University*. I am presenting "Genetic Modifications in Humans," a research paper that I wrote for my English 1a course from the fall 2008 semester. This assignment included selecting a controversial topic and addressing its various standpoints through the basis of research. In fine tuning the piece, I utilized the comments and questions presented by my peers and teacher in order to create a clear argument.

My writing process for this piece was very difficult because of the actual topic I chose. Germ line modifications in humans, a topic that I briefly learned about in my biology 10 course, was a very difficult subject to find valid and credible research materials. I had to sift through various scientific journals and library books to find sources that could address all standpoints of the topic, a key requirement for the essay prompt. However, I was able to narrow down my facts to a couple main ideas that also had a unique approach to my selected topic. Instead of approaching from a religious and very biological standpoint, I tried to address the fiscal and social problems that germ line modifications may bring in the future. In a way, I tried to discuss the essential flaws that our society brings upon itself and how if not fixed, more problems will arise.

In addition to my approach and research for this essay, I had to reconsider my revision style. In my first semester of college, I realized that the revision process is more about rewriting my essays and really concentrating on the content of the essays. There were sequences that needed more clarification and in my concern for making a clear argument to the audience, I took all measures to ensure a clear argument. This is where peer revision and teacher-feedback was very helpful and allowed my essays to become what they are now.

I am very excited to submit a piece to *Writing the University* and I hope more people will be able to enjoy my writing. Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments regarding my submission or this introductory letter.

Sincerely,

Erin McHale