

Appendix 2. Controversial Topics Course Assignment and Rubric.

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NTR 450/550 Controversial Topics Instructions and Grading Rubric

Due date: 2/17/14

50 points

Instructions

Students will learn to read and assemble scientific research, to interpret research findings, and to develop and practice critical thinking skills. Students will be randomly assigned to groups of five or more people. As a team, the students will give a 5-minute presentation on a controversial **NUTRITION** topic related to pregnancy or lactation. To increase the diversity of the controversial topics presented, it is preferred that each team presents on a different controversial topic. Topic selection will be first come, first served. Please inform the instructor of your selection as soon as possible.

Here is what I expect for each component of the assignment.

- 1) What the Controversial Topic is: Clearly state the controversial topic. State why this is a controversial topic. State what role it plays in pregnancy or lactation.
- 2) What the Stance of the Group is: Clearly state if the group is for or against the issue. Be brief, but make your point.
- 3) The Scientific Evidence Assembled to Support Stance: Discuss the scientific evidence you found that shows that your stance has credence using your own words. At least three sources must be included. Cite the sources on each individual slide, screen, etc., and provide the complete references at the end.
- 4) Potential Conflicting Point of View: Clearly state an argument that may be proposed by others that is against the stance of the group. Discuss why others do not agree with your viewpoint. Include at least one source (scientific evidence) for the opposing viewpoint.
- 5) Response to Conflicting Point of View: Clearly state and discuss a response for the opposing viewpoint. The response must be supported by at least one scientific source.
- 6) Language Use and Delivery: Effectively use eye contact. Speak clearly, effectively, and confidently using suitable volume and pace. Select rich and varied words for context and use correct grammar.

Potential controversial topics may include but are not limited to:

- 1) Consumption of peanuts during pregnancy/lactation as a risk factor for peanut allergies.
- 2) The nutritional management of gestational diabetes or type 2 diabetes during pregnancy.
- 3) Alcohol consumption in pregnancy/lactation.
- 4) The pros and cons of eating fish during pregnancy: omega fatty acids vs. mercury.
- 5) Breastfeeding in public.
- 6) Dietary supplements during lactation.
- 7) What is bisphenol A (BPA)? Should we worry about the use of plastics to heat/store food during pregnancy and lactation?

Each and every team member must contribute to the presentation and must state how they contributed to the presentation. If PowerPoint slides, Prezi, or some other tangible final product is submitted, the last slide, screen, etc., must have a contribution statement from each group member. If no tangible final

product is submitted, then send contributing statements (as a single email message from the group) to the instructor via Blackboard. The PowerPoint slides, Prezi, or other medium should be submitted/posted on Blackboard no later than 9 AM on February 17, 2014. **The presentation must be performed/delivered by all team members; two points will be deducted from the score if not met. Presenters must dress appropriately (no shorts, tanks, etc.); two points will be deducted from the score if not met for the individual committing the infraction.** Again, the controversial topic **MUST BE RELATED TO NUTRITION**. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of your controversial topic, please ask.

The number of points for this assignment is 50. The maximum number of points for each section is the following:

- 1) What the Controversial Topic is – 5 points
- 2) What the Stance of the Group is – 2 points
- 3) The Scientific Evidence – 15 points
- 4) Potential Conflicting View Point – 12 points
- 5) Response to Conflicting View Point – 12 points
- 6) Language Use and Delivery – 4 points

Grading Rubric

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|--|---|---|--|--|
| Controversial Topic | Introduces the topic clearly. Clearly describes the controversy regarding the topic. Clearly discusses the significance of this topic in pregnancy or lactation. 5 points | Introduces the topic. Somewhat describes the controversy regarding the topic. Somewhat discusses the significance of this topic in pregnancy or lactation. 3 points | Does not introduce the topic. Does not describe the controversy regarding the topic. Does not discuss the significance of this topic in pregnancy or lactation. 0 points | |
| Stance of the Group | Clearly states the stance of the group. 2 points | Does not clearly state the stance of the group. 0 points | | |
| Scientific Evidence | Thoroughly discusses the scientific evidence that supports the stance, in their own words. Three references are provided. 15 points | Discusses the scientific evidence that supports the stance; quotes verbatim from the sources. Three references are provided. 10 points | Somewhat discusses the scientific evidence that supports the stance; quotes verbatim from the sources. Two or fewer references are provided. 5 points | Does not discuss the scientific evidence that supports the stance. Two or fewer references are provided. 0 points |
| Conflicting View Points | Clearly states and thoroughly discusses a reason why others oppose the view point; at least one source is included. 12 points | States and discusses a reason why others oppose the view point; at least one source is included. 8 points | Somewhat states and discusses the reason why others oppose the view point. Opposing view point is somewhat supported by a scientific source. 4 points | Does not state or discuss why others oppose the view point. Opposing view point is not supported by a scientific source. 0 points |
| Responses to Conflicting Points of View | Clearly states and thoroughly discusses a response to the opposing viewpoint. The response is supported by at least one scientific source. 12 points | States and discusses a response to the opposing viewpoint. The response is supported by at least one scientific source. 8 points | Somewhat states and discusses a response to the opposing viewpoint. Response is somewhat supported by a scientific source. 4 points | Does not state or discuss a response to the opposing viewpoint. Response is not supported by a scientific source. 0 points |
| Language Use and Delivery | Effectively uses eye contact. Speaks clearly, effectively, and confidently using suitable volume and pace. Selects rich and varied words for context and uses correct grammar. 4 points | Some eye contact but not maintained. Speaks unclearly and does not use suitable volume and pace. Selects words inappropriate for context; uses incorrect grammar. 2 point | Uses eye contact ineffectively. Fails to speak clearly and audibly and uses unsuitable pace. Selects words inappropriate for context; uses incorrect grammar. 0 points | |

All team members participated in the presentation:

Presenters dressed appropriately:

Yes: no loss of points

Yes: no loss of points

No: minus 2 points

No: minus 2 points