**Subject area/course**: Science/Biology

**Grade level/band**: 9-10

**Task source**: Summit Public Schools

**Current Events in Science**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

How does a recent scientific discovery impact your life?

Do you know someone who has cancer? Does your family spend too much money on gasoline? Do you know someone who is blind? Do you know someone who needs an organ transplant? Cancer immunity in naked mole rats, using bacteria to grow gasoline, bionic eyes helping the blind see, and bioengineering blood vessels are just a few of the exciting discoveries that have happened in the last year and that are happening all of the time in science.   
  
For this project you will play the role of a journalist researching and presenting a recent discovery in science. As a journalist you have a unique responsibility to communicate important facts about the discovery in a way that is engaging and appeals to your audience members. You will also be critiquing and challenging the evidence and arguments of the discovery in order to contribute to the body of scientific knowledge.

There are four parts to this task:

* + 1. Evaluating the claim, evidence, & analysis in an article about a recent scientific discovery.
    2. Using SOAPSTone to evaluate the trustworthiness of your sources.
    3. Creating an organized and engaging presentation about the discovery including how it connects to your life and what you've learned in biology.
    4. Delivering a presentation that explains the science news clearly to your peers, in your own words.

1. **Final product**:

You will submit your completed handouts from steps 1 and 2, and then create and deliver a 5-minute oral presentation to the class. Your presentation should include:

* Claim – Summarize the topic and sources you chose. Provide background information on the discovery.
* Evidence – How was this recent scientific advancement discovered? What statistics or data were included in the article(s)? Is the evidence valid and reliable?
* Analysis – What is the author’s analysis? Is it logical? How does the author explain the evidence that supports the claim? Are there mistakes in the author’s reasoning or false reasoning?
* Significance – What is the significance and impact of this scientific discovery? Describe how it connects to biology and what you’ve been studying in class.
* Why did you choose the article? Why does it interest you and how does it connect to your life?
* What questions does the article leave unanswered?

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

This task will continue to develop your abilities to evaluate resources that you researched, critique evidence and arguments, create a presentation that engages your audience, and speak effectively in front of groups. These skills are needed for success in developing as a scientist in biology.

1. **Materials needed:**

* Copies of the following documents:
  + Item A. Brainstorming and Topic Selection
  + Item B. Evaluation of Current Events
  + Item C. SOAPSTone Analysis
* Presentation software such as PowerPoint, Keynote, or Prezi to create your oral presentation

1. **Time requirements:**

You will have approximately one week to complete this assignment. Some in-class time and instruction will be provided.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Summit Public Schools Current Events in Science Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.