**Discussion Questions**

1. Should Scientists do stem cell research?

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| Things to consider | Your position (Claim) | Evidence & Reasoning |
| Types of stem cells  Embryonic vs Adult |  |  |
| When does legal personhood begin |  |  |
| Potential Benefits of stem cell research? Do the benefits outweigh the costs? |  |  |

1. Who should fund stem cell research? If Government funds stem cell research, it is easier to put restrictions on what kind of things scientists can do. When privately funded there are less restrictions. According to Bioethics.net, heres a breakdown of who is spending what?
   1. The **Federal Government** spends $640 million annually for Stem cell research. Only $40 million of that goes to funding human embryonic stem cell research (hESC)
   2. **State Governments** are spending more than the feds on hESC. The Illinois legislature, on July 12, 2005, Governor Rod Blagojevich signed an executive order authorizing $10 million in funding for adult, cord blood, and embryonic stem cell research. All of the 505 states combined collectively outspend the NIH annually by a factor of six.
   3. **Foundations and private philanthropists** are spending a ton of money on hESC. While we don’t have it all by a long shot, we counted some $1.7 billion in private donations over the last few years to support stem cell research, most of it to establish stem cell programs free of federal funding restrictions at a number of different universities and other research institutions.

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| Claim | Evidence & reasoning |
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Did any of your positions change after the discussion? If so which ones and why? If your positions didn’t change, explain how this discussion helped you better understand the issue.

Moving forward, what questions do you need answered to make or support a claim on these issues?