

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Media Reviews: 7th Grade Life Science

Why Media Reviews?

Media Reviews are one type of extension activity.. The purpose of doing media reviews is to help you develop your science reasoning skills and encourage you to learn about current developments in science. Feel free to submit your assignment via email.

Selecting Media

I prefer you to select material from relatively current newspapers, magazines, websites or television shows. The material needs to be related to **LIFE** science, but not necessarily the same topic we are studying. The first question many students ask is, “How long does the article or TV show have to be?” There is no one answer to this question. Most likely a one-paragraph newspaper blurb is not long enough and a 15 page magazine article is too long, but depending on your time and interests most articles will work. Either a 30 or 60 minute television program should be sufficient. I will start a box of articles that I think are appropriate and have them available for check out if you get stumped. Sam in the library can also help you find something interesting. Wikipedia and blogs do not count as sources.

Learning about science topics can sometimes be confusing. A good strategy is to quickly skim the article and figure out what the big idea is and then reread it a second time to start to understand the details. Jot down and look up words that are unfamiliar to you. Look carefully at the photos, tables, graphs, and diagrams that go with the article (or show), they are intended to help you understand the author’s message. Talking with someone else can also help.

Writing the Review

After you have read the article (or watched the TV show), use the back of this page to write your review. Keep in mind this should be your best writing, write or type neatly, look up words that you don’t know how to spell, and use complete sentences. If you like, you can write the review on a computer or on your own paper if you need more room; just make sure to include all of the information that I have on my format.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Name of Newspaper, Magazine, Website, or Television Show: _____

Date of the Article/Show: _____

Title of Article/Show: _____

A. In the space below list two vocabulary words that were new to you or that you didn't completely understand. Look up their definitions and then describe what they mean in your **own words**.

1.

2.

B. In your own words, describe three important ideas from the article (2 sentences explaining each *idea*)

1. *Idea:* _____

Description:

2. *Idea:* _____

Description:

3. *Idea:* _____

Description

C. What is your opinion of the article? *Was it interesting? Clearly written? Confusing? 3-4 sentences*

D. Describe any visual aids (graphs, charts, photos, and diagrams) that the author used to help make his or her point more clear. Tell me whether they were helpful or confusing and why. If there were no visual aids, describe what you would recommend the author include? *Why? 3-4 sentences*

E. Write two questions you would like to ask the person who wrote the article or made the video.