



**Instructor:** (2002 Science Teacher Workshop participant)

**School District:** Vernon Township

**Lesson Title:** Food Irradiation: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.

**Grades:** 7-12

**Subjects:** Language Arts and Science

**Overview:** Students will research and develop a five-paragraph essay stating their position on food irradiation.

**Objectives:**

- Students will conduct research using a variety of materials.
- Students will recognize how the prejudice of the author influences the content of the material.
- Students will take a position on a controversial topic.
- Students will write a five-paragraph essay supporting a given position on a controversial science topic. (GEPA skill)

**Materials and Resources:** Science journals, web sites and writing organizers.

- Students will research a given topic, such as food irradiation. Library time will be available.
- Students will find 3 articles giving both the positive and negative aspects of the given topic.
- Class discussion will take place about how the position of the author and the propaganda used in the writing affect the overall quality and accuracy of the information stated.
- After reading the articles, the student must fill out the attached organizer to determine the position the student will be taking. Eight facts per side must be listed.
- The essay will be written in the given five-paragraph format.
- Revision and editing will then take place.
- Final essay will be submitted for evaluation.
- Examples of prop and con references:
  - <http://www.organicconsumers.org/irrad/irradfact.cfm> "What's Wrong with Food Irradiation"
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/foodirradiation.htm#whatis> "Frequently asked questions on food irradiation", Center for Disease Control

## ORGANIZER

Topic: Food Irradiation

**Pro:**

1. \_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_

**Con:**

1. \_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_

## ESSAY FORMAT

Introduction: WHO \_\_\_\_\_  
WHAT \_\_\_\_\_  
WHERE \_\_\_\_\_  
WHEN \_\_\_\_\_  
WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE? \_\_\_\_\_

- Be clear what your position is!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FIRST REASON
--------------

- 1 supporting detail
- 2 supporting detail
- 3 supporting detail

- Include transition words

SECOND REASON
---------------

- 1 supporting detail
- 2 supporting detail
- 3 supporting detail

- Include transition words

THIRD REASON
--------------

- 1 supporting detail
- 2 supporting detail
- 3 supporting detail

Conclusion: Restate your position on the topic. Highlight your most impressive arguments. Leave the reader believing **your** opinion!!!